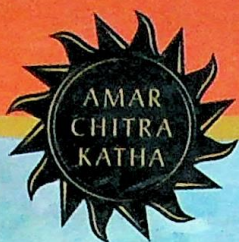


NO. 10020 RS. 80



# Vishnu To The Rescue



3 Illustrated Classics from India  
Garuda • Prahlad • The Churning of the Ocean





## Illustrated Classics From India

### Garuda

Garuda is a divine, mythical bird that has been greatly venerated in India through the ages. His father, Sage Kashyap was the progenitor of the devas and asuras, and his mother Vinata was the daughter of Daksha.

Many indologists hold that this deity is of Dravidian origin. A stone flag-post, often covered with a metal plate with an image of Garuda on top, is invariably erected in front of the image of the presiding deity, Lord Vishnu, in all Vaishnavite temples, as Garuda is considered to be one of the greatest devotees of Vishnu. During the Gupta age, which is referred to as the golden era of Indian history, the Imperial standard had an image of Garuda cast upon it. Garuda is represented as a large white-necked eagle, but his image in temples depicts him with a human trunk.

Serpents are the natural food of the eagle. The reason for this enmity is traced in the Adi Parva of the Mahabharata to the jealousy between Kadru and Vinata, the mother of the serpents and of Garuda respectively, and the two rival wives of Sage Kashyap. Only Vishnu could have these two born enemies – Garuda, the mighty eagle, and Shesha, the great serpent – wait upon him together. He uses Shesha as his couch and Garuda as his mount.

**Editor: Anant Pai**

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**Illustrations: C. M. Vitankar**

**Cover: C. M. Vitankar**

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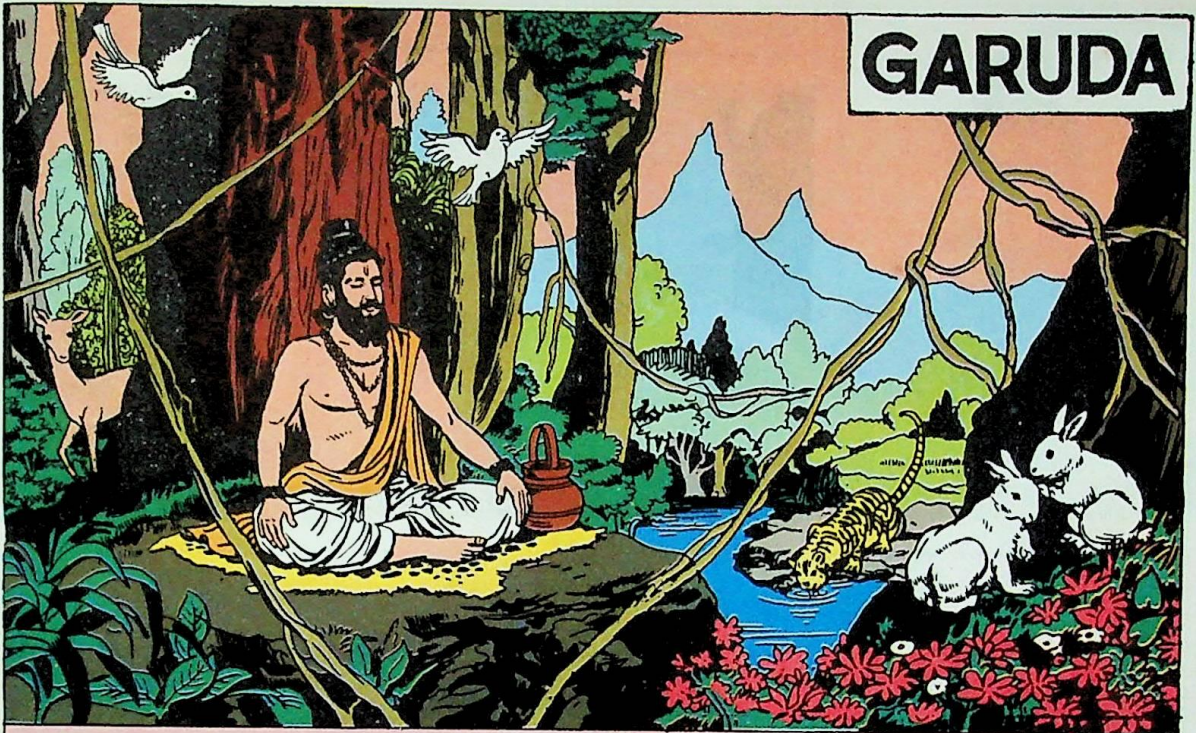


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# GARUDA



SAGE KASHYAP WHO HAD MARRIED THIRTEEN OF DAKSHA'S DAUGHTERS, WAS THE PROGENITOR OF THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS, AND MUCH OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM AS WELL.

ONE DAY, HE DECIDED TO CONFER A BOON EACH ON TWO OF HIS WIVES, VINATA AND KADRU.

I AM GOING TO PERFORM A YAGNA\* FOR MORE OFFSPRING. THIS TIME YOU SHALL BE THE MOTHERS.

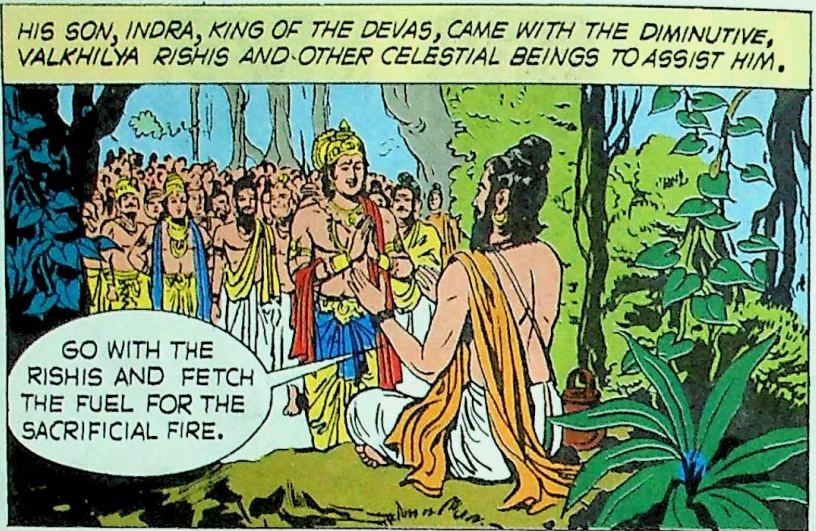
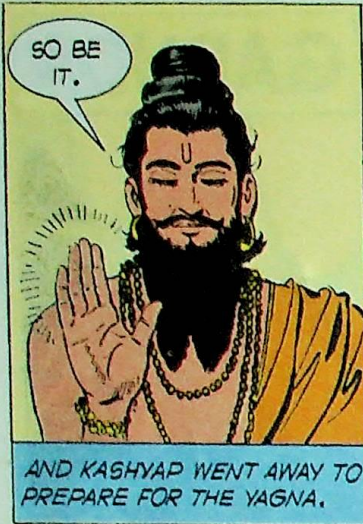
I WOULD LIKE TO BE THE MOTHER OF A THOUSAND MIGHTY SNAKES.

AND YOU, VINATA?

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TWO SONS WHO WILL SURPASS KADRU'S THOUSAND SNAKES IN STRENGTH AND VALOUR.

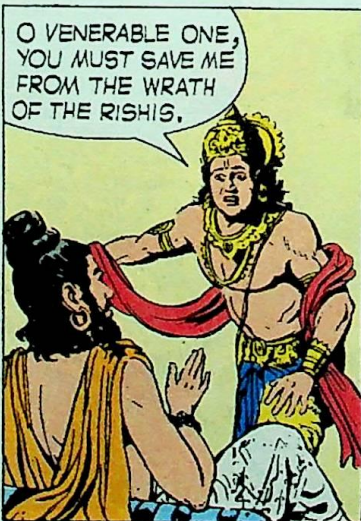
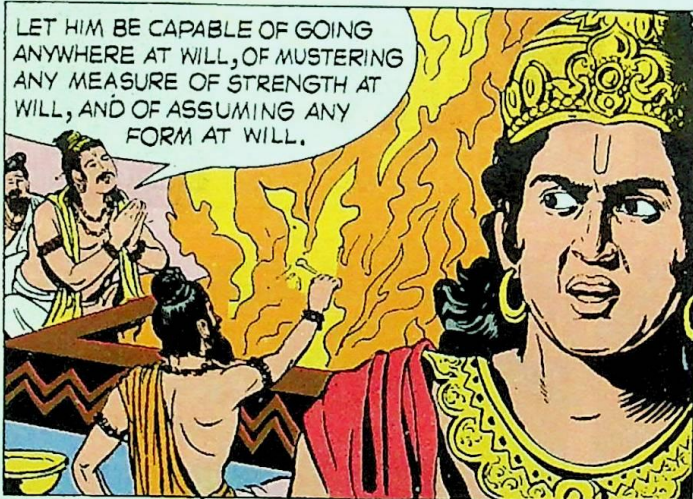
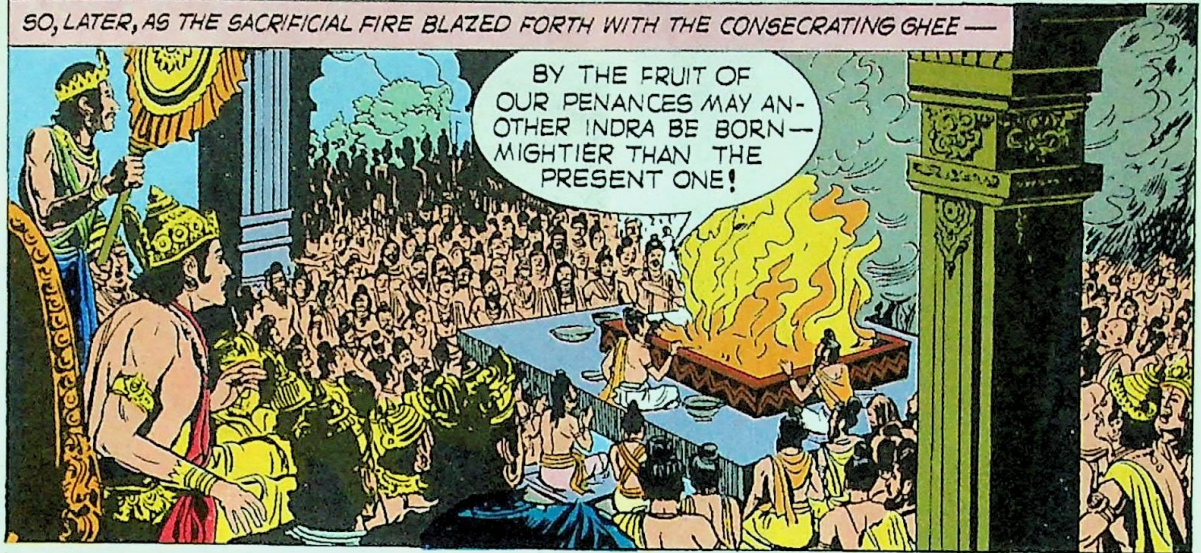
\*FIRE SACRIFICE.



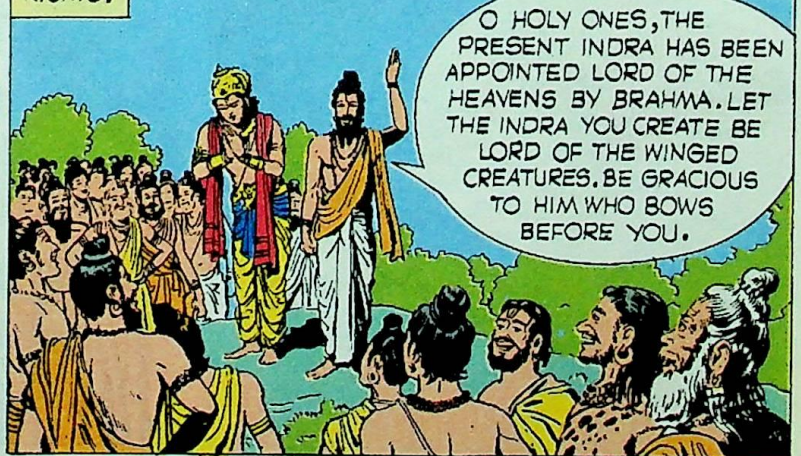




SO, LATER, AS THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE BLAZED FORTH WITH THE CONSECRATING GHEE —



AFTER HEARING THE WHOLE STORY, KASHYAP SPOKE TO THE RISHIS.





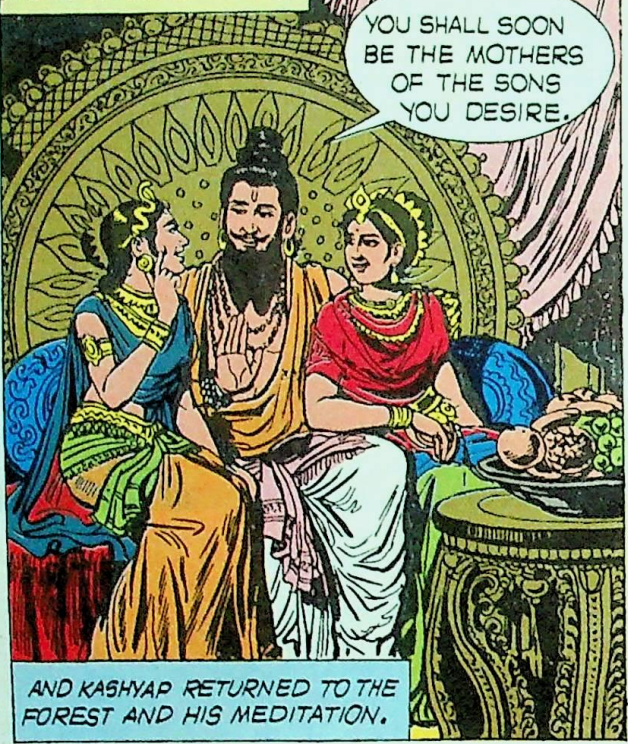
THE RISHIS RELENTED.

SO BE IT, SINCE THIS YAGNA IS FOR OFFSPRING FOR YOU, ACCEPT THE FRUIT OF OUR ACTIONS.



WHEN THE YAGNA WAS OVER, KASHYAP RETURNED TO VINATA AND KADRU.

YOU SHALL SOON BE THE MOTHERS OF THE SONS YOU DESIRE.



AND KASHYAP RETURNED TO THE FOREST AND HIS MEDITATION.

MONTHS LATER, VINATA BROUGHT FORTH TWO EGGS AND KADRU, A THOUSAND.

LET US HAVE THEM INCUBATED SEPARATELY IN WARM VESSELS.



YEARS ROLLED BY. THE MOTHERS WAITED ANXIOUSLY FOR THE EGGS TO HATCH. THEN ONE DAY —

O VINATA, MY SONS HAVE BURST OPEN THEIR SHELLS! COME, SEE THEM.



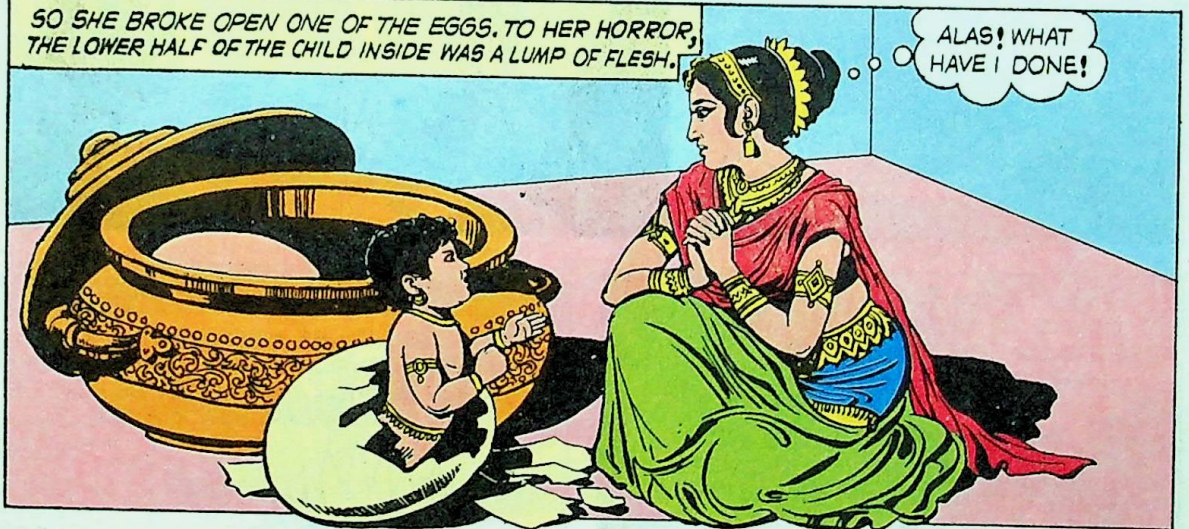




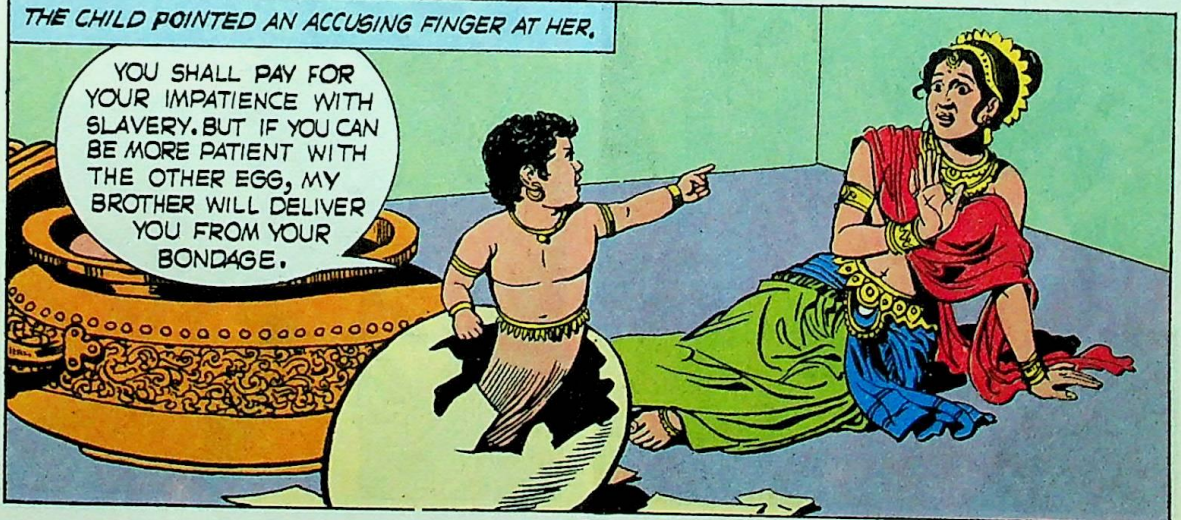
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE, VINATA FELT THE PANGS OF JEALOUSY. SHE BECAME IMPATIENT.



SO SHE BROKE OPEN ONE OF THE EGGS. TO HER HORROR, THE LOWER HALF OF THE CHILD INSIDE WAS A LUMP OF FLESH.



THE CHILD POINTED AN ACCUSING FINGER AT HER.





AND THE CHILD ASCENDED THE SKIES TO BECOME THE CHARIOTEER OF SURYA, THE SUN-GOD.

A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN VINATA AND KADRU WERE OUT ONE EVENING, THEY SAW THE CELESTIAL STEED, UCHCHAISHRAVA, FLY PAST.



COME BACK, MY SON. DON'T LEAVE ME.

QUICK, VINATA, CAN YOU TELL ME THE COLOUR OF THAT HORSE?



IT IS WHITE ALL OVER. I CAN LAY A WAGER ON IT.

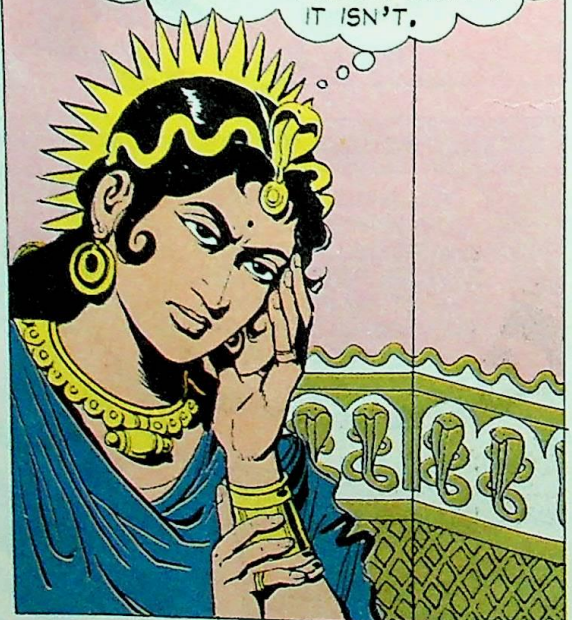
I THINK IT HAS A BLACK TAIL. I'M WILLING TO WAGER YOU MY FREEDOM ON THAT. YES, LET THE LOSER BECOME THE OTHER'S SLAVE!

WE'LL GO AND EXAMINE THE HORSE TOMORROW. LET'S GO HOME NOW.



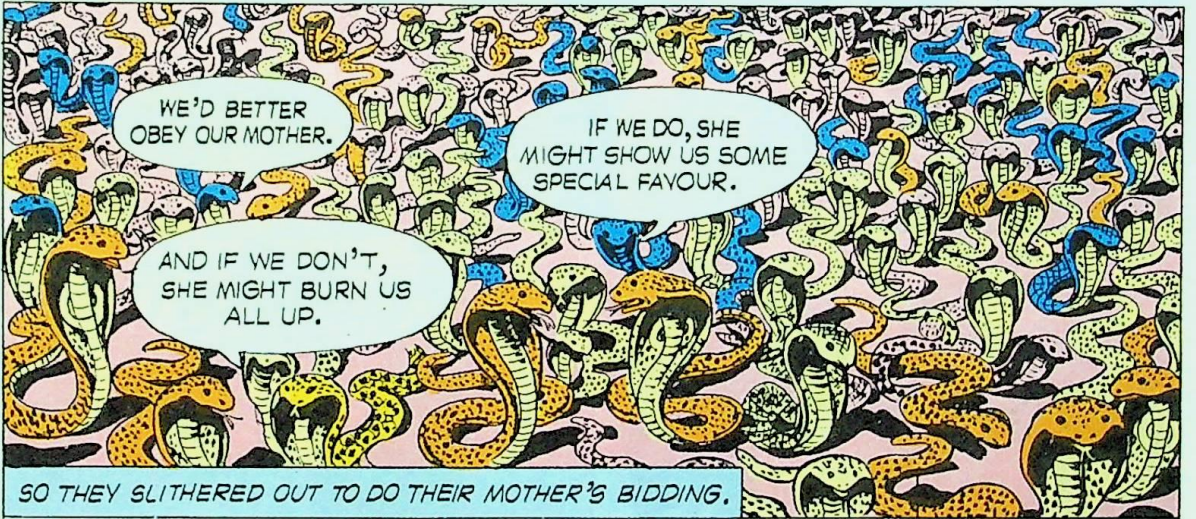
KADRU HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE BET.

COULD I BE WRONG? VINATA WAS VERY CONFIDENT. I MUST NOT BECOME HER SLAVE. I MUST MAKE THE HORSE'S TAIL APPEAR BLACK EVEN IF IT ISN'T.





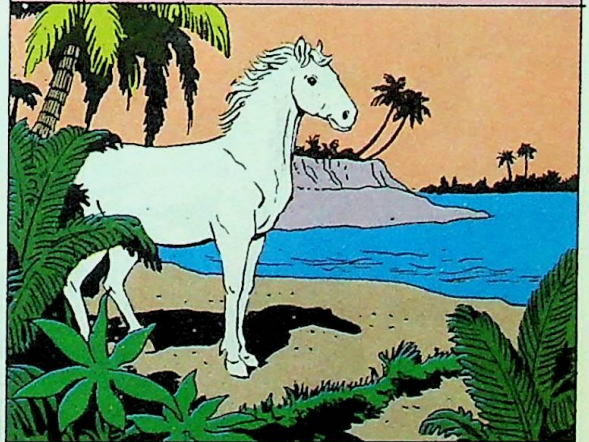
WHEN THEY REACHED HOME, KADRU SENT FOR HER THOUSAND SONS.



THE NEXT DAY, VINATA AND KADRU SET OUT TO SEE THE HORSE. ACROSS THE MIGHTY OCEAN THEY TRAVELLED...

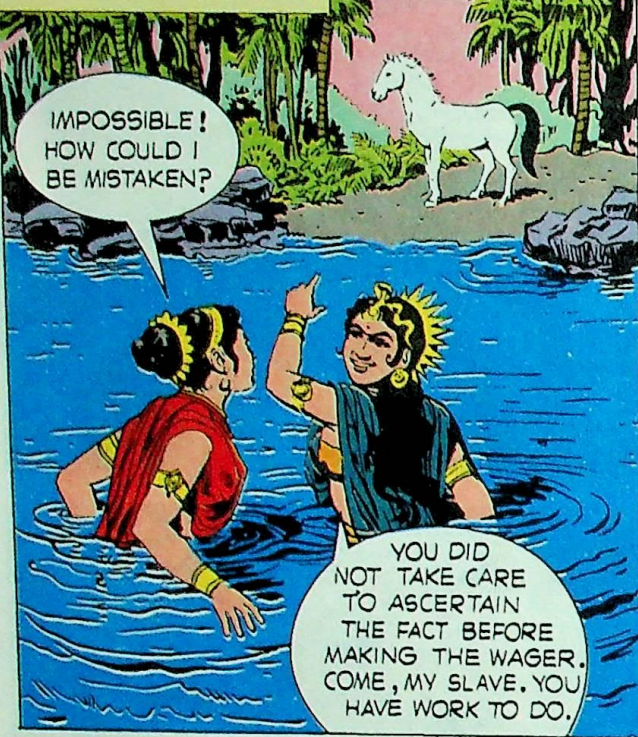


... TO THE ABODE OF UCHCHAISHRAVA. THERE STOOD THE HORSE, SPOTLESSLY WHITE BUT...





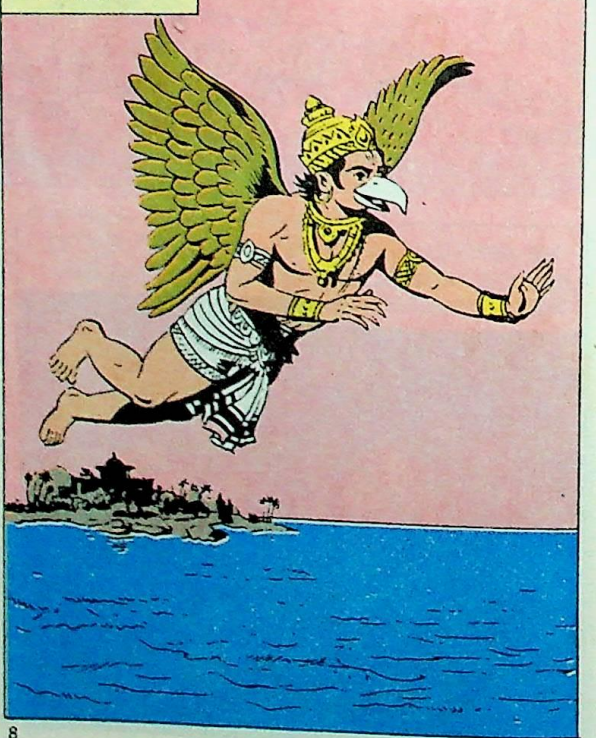
... ITS TAIL WAS BLACK. VINATA COULD NOT BELIEVE HER EYES.



MEANWHILE, AT HOME, VINATA'S SECOND SON BROKE HIS SHELL AND EMERGED INTO THE WORLD.



...AND SOARING INTO THE SKIES FLEW ACROSS THE OCEAN...





... TO HIS MOTHER'S SIDE. VINATA SHED TEARS OF JOY WHEN SHE SAW HIM.



MOTHER!

AH! MY SON!  
MY POWERFUL SON.  
YOU SHALL RELIEVE  
ME OF MUCH OF  
MY BURDEN.

AT THAT MOMENT, KADRU CAME THERE WITH HER SONS.



O VINATA, MY  
SONS AND I WISH  
TO VISIT THE  
PLEASURE ISLAND  
OF THE NAGAS, IN  
THE MIDST OF THE  
OCEAN. TAKE US  
THERE.

VINATA TOOK KADRU ON HER  
SHOULDER AND TURNED TO  
HER SON.



DEAR  
ONE, PLEASE  
TAKE THE SNAKES  
ON YOUR BACK.

VINATA'S SON WAS PERPLEXED.



ARE WE THEIR  
SLAVES? WHY DOES  
MY MOTHER DE-  
MEAN HERSELF  
SO?

ENRAGED, HE INCREASED HIS SIZE...





... SUDDENLY ROSE INTO THE AIR AND FLEW TOWARDS THE SUN. THE SNAKES WERE ALARMED.



MY SONS! HE'S OUT TO DESTROY MY SONS!



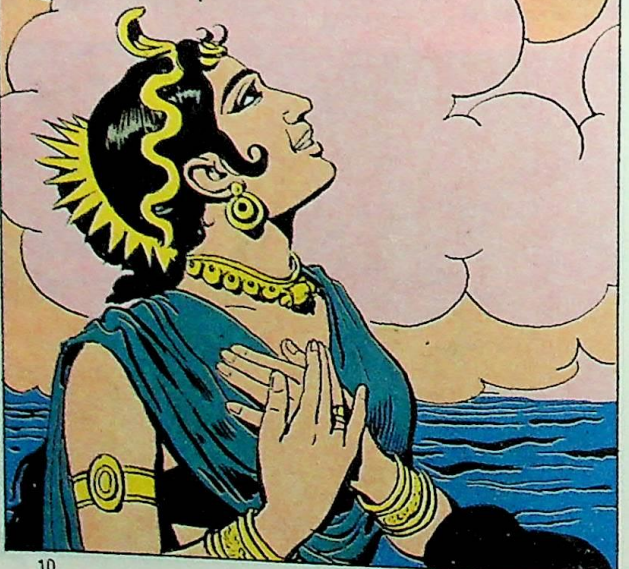
WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER MOMENT, KADRU BEGAN PRAYING TO INDRA.

O LORD OF SHACHI, O KING OF THE HEAVENS, SAVE MY SONS WITH YOUR LIFE-GIVING SHOWERS. O BEST OF DEVAS YOU ARE MY ONLY REFUGE.



THE CLOUDS AT INDRA'S COMMAND, SUDDENLY DARKENED.

O BENEVOLENT DEVA, YOU HAVE HEARD MY PRAYERS.









WHEN SHE ENDED HER TALE, HER MIGHTY SON WENT TO THE NAGAS.

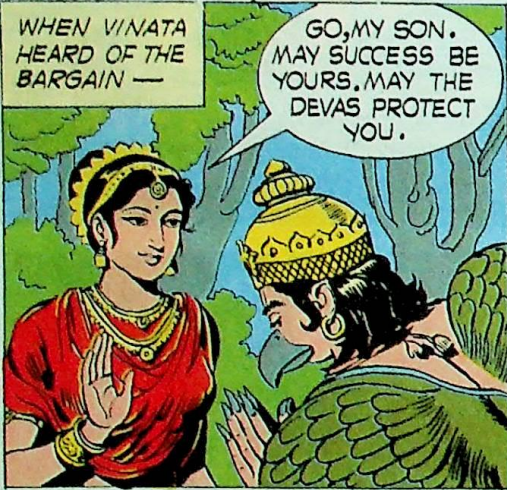
I WISH TO BUY  
OUR FREEDOM.  
WHAT IS YOUR  
PRICE?

AMRIT! \* BRING US  
AMRIT AND YOU  
ARE FREE.

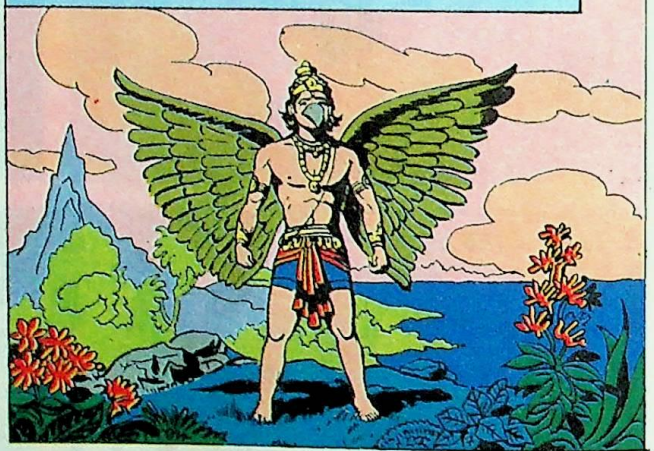


WHEN VINATA  
HEARD OF THE  
BARGAIN —

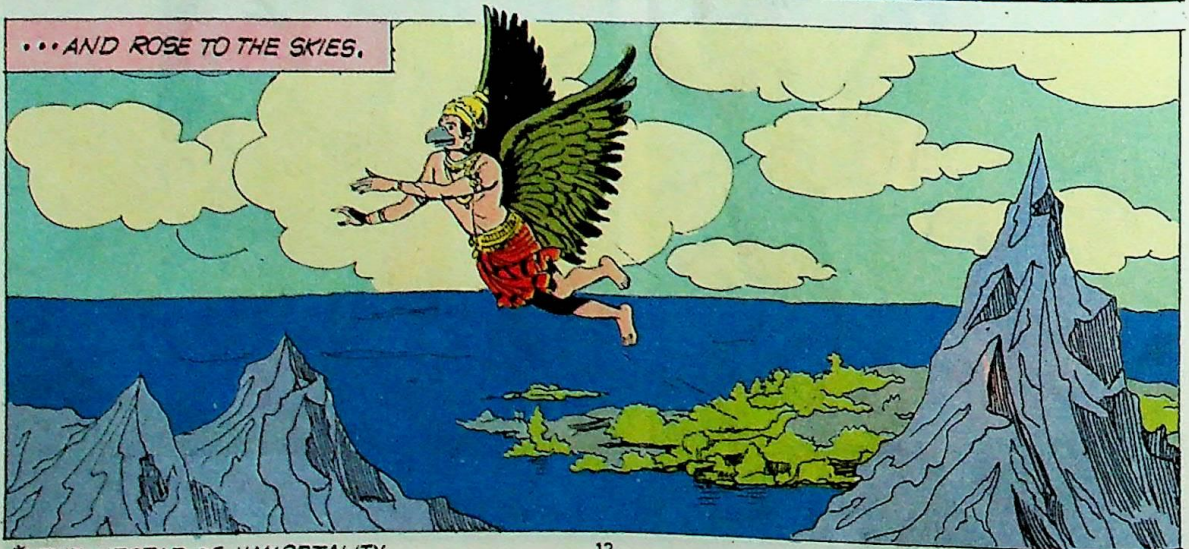
GO, MY SON.  
MAY SUCCESS BE  
YOURS. MAY THE  
DEVAS PROTECT  
YOU.



THE SON OF VINATA SPREAD OUT HIS WINGS...



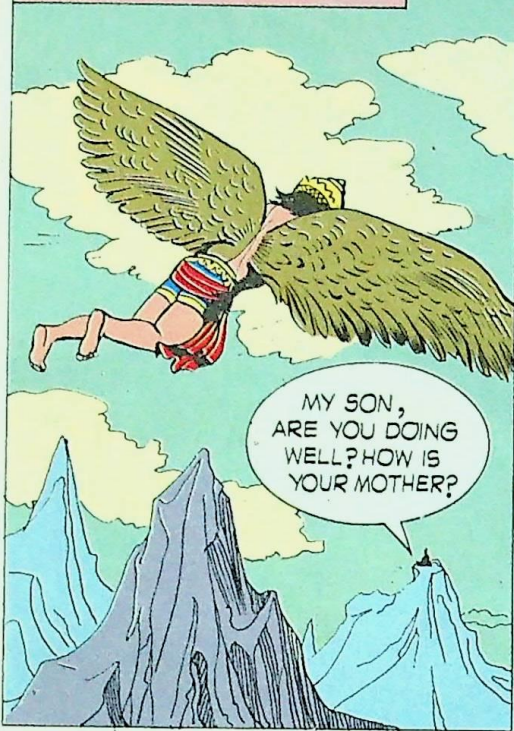
...AND ROSE TO THE SKIES.



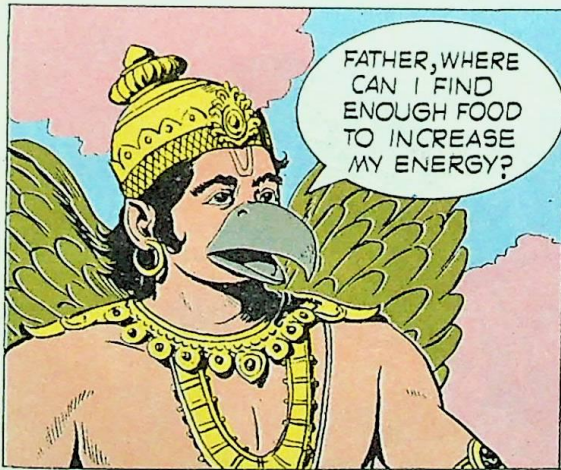
\* THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY.



AS HE FLEW TOWARDS THE ABODE OF THE DEVAS, HE HEARD A VOICE.



IT WAS SAGE KASHYAP.



KASHYAP POINTED TO A LAKE IN THE DISTANCE.

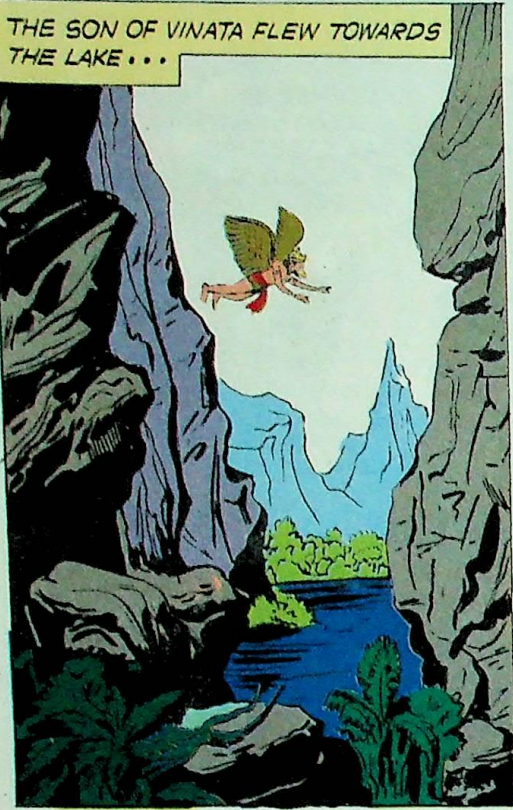
DOWN THERE YOU WILL FIND A HUGE TORTOISE AND AN ELEPHANT. THEY ARE BENT ON KILLING EACH OTHER. EAT THEM AND PROCEED ON YOUR MISSION.

I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY, FATHER!





THE SON OF VINATA FLEW TOWARDS  
THE LAKE...



...SWOOPED DOWN ON THE ANIMALS...



...AND SEIZING ONE IN EACH CLAW, SOARED INTO THE SKY.



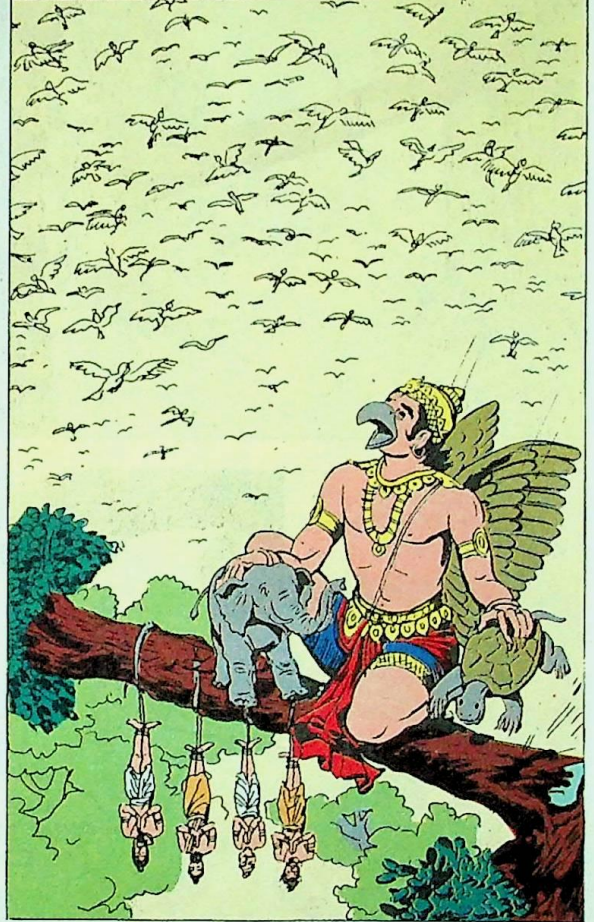


AT LAST, HE SAW AN OLD BANYAN TREE ON THE SEASHORE. IT BECKONED TO HIM WITH ITS BRANCHES.

O GREAT BIRD,  
COME AND SIT ON  
THIS STRONG ARM  
OF MINE AND ENJOY  
YOUR FEAST.



BUT ALAS! THE MOMENT THE GREAT BIRD  
ALIGHTED ON THE BRANCH...



... IT TREMBLED AND BROKE. THE  
MIGHTY SON OF VINATA LOOKED  
DOWN.



WHY! THERE ARE  
SOME RISHIS HANGING  
FROM IT. THEY MUST NOT  
BE HARMED.





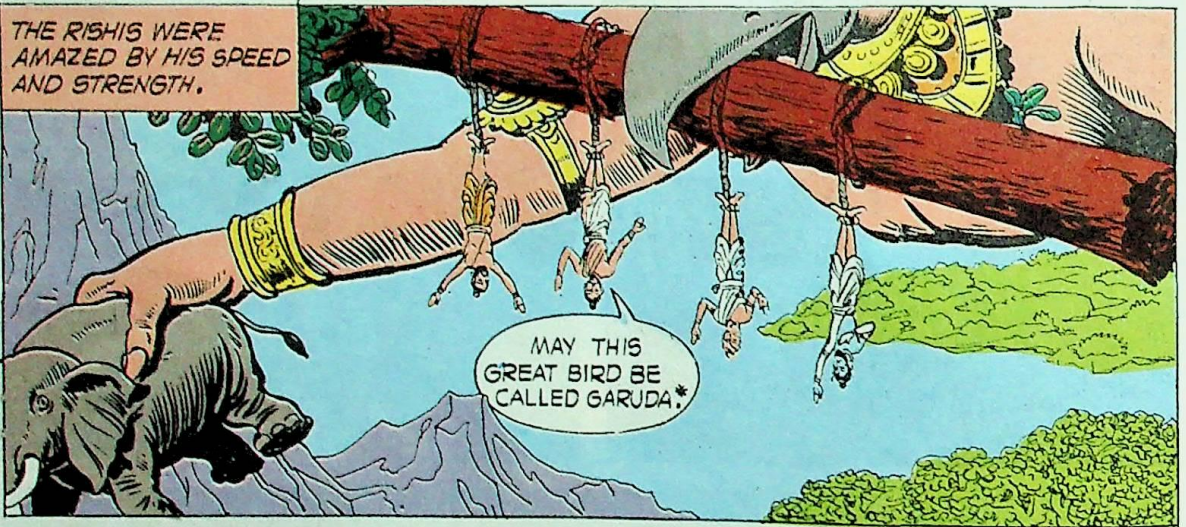
AND BEFORE THE BRANCH COULD COME CRASHING DOWN...



...HE CAUGHT IT..



THE RISHIS WERE AMAZED BY HIS SPEED AND STRENGTH.



GARUDA FLEW SLOWLY ONWARD.





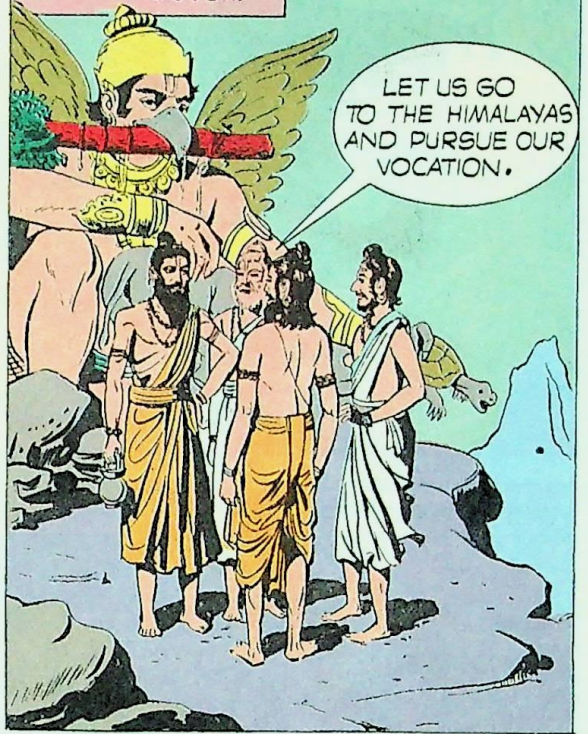
SUDDENLY —

AH! THE  
PEAKS OF THE  
GANDHAMADANA  
MOUNTAINS.

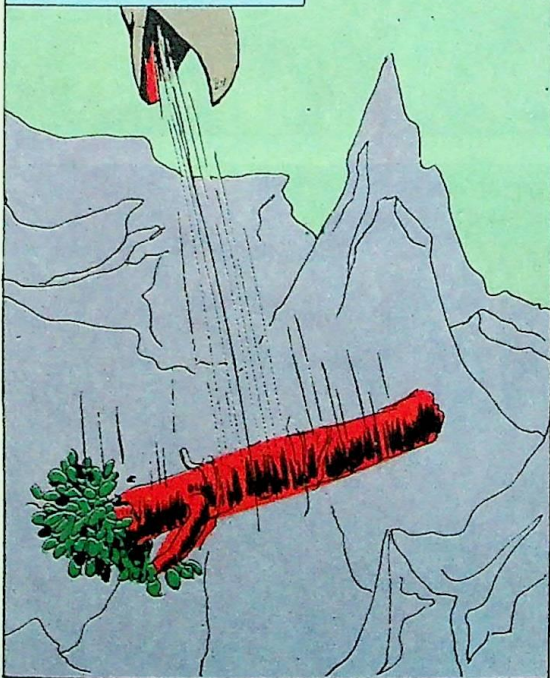


AS SOON AS GARUDA LANDED, THE RISHIS  
LEFT THE BOUGH.

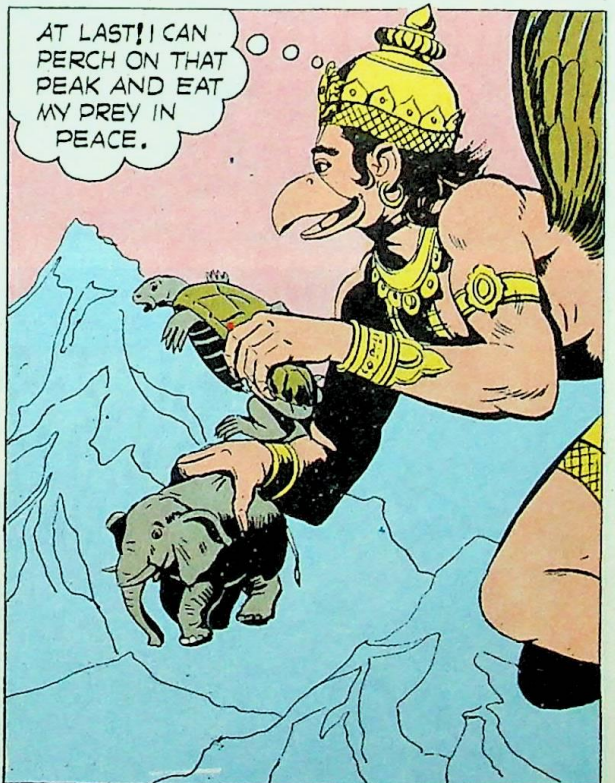
LET US GO  
TO THE HIMALAYAS  
AND PURSUE OUR  
VOCATION.



THEN, FLYING OVER AN UNINHABITED  
SUMMIT, GARUDA LET THE HUGE BRANCH  
FALL FROM HIS BEAK.

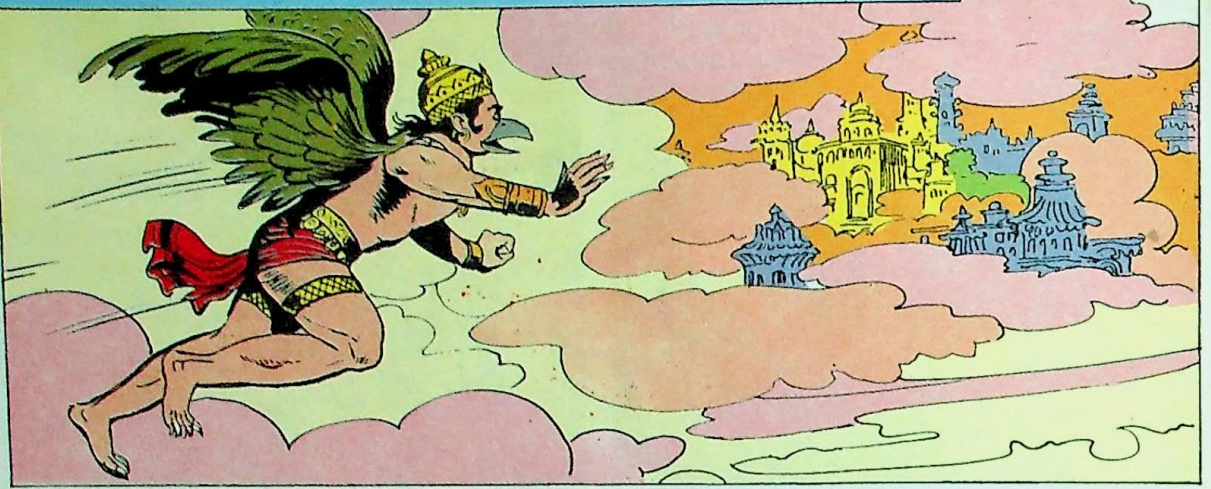


AT LAST! I CAN  
PERCH ON THAT  
PEAK AND EAT  
MY PREY IN  
PEACE.





HIS MEAL OVER, GARUDA RESUMED HIS FLIGHT TO THE ABODE OF THE DEVAS.



MEANWHILE, VARIOUS EVIL OMENS BEGAN TO APPEAR IN INDRA'S HEAVEN.



SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE—NOT EVEN DURING THE FAMOUS WAR BETWEEN THE DEVAS AND ASURAS.



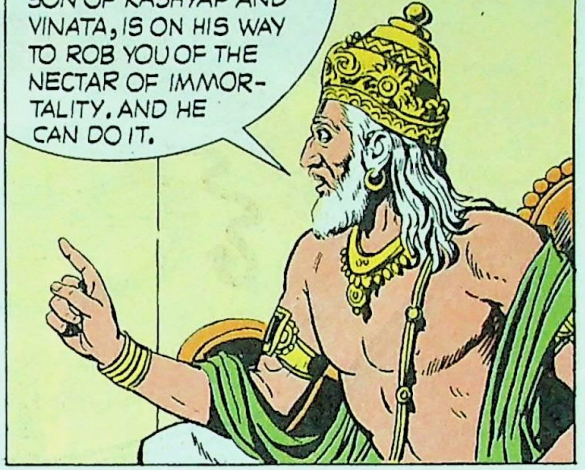


A FRIGHTENED INDRA ALONG WITH OTHER DEVAS, WENT TO BRIHASPATI, THEIR GURU.

O REVERED ONE,  
WHAT DO THESE BAD  
OMENS MEAN?

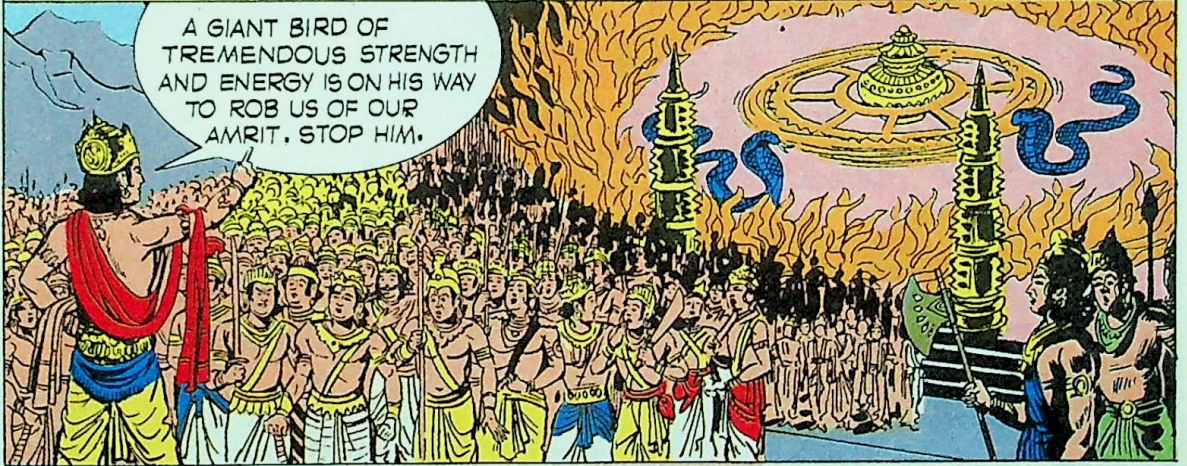


GARUDA, THE INVINCIBLE  
SON OF KASHYAP AND  
VINATA, IS ON HIS WAY  
TO ROB YOU OF THE  
NECTAR OF IMMOR-  
TALITY. AND HE  
CAN DO IT.



INDRA TOOK LEAVE OF BRIHASPATI AND WENT TO WARN THOSE WHO GUARDED THE NECTAR.

A GIANT BIRD OF  
TREMENDOUS STRENGTH  
AND ENERGY IS ON HIS WAY  
TO ROB US OF OUR  
AMRIT. STOP HIM.



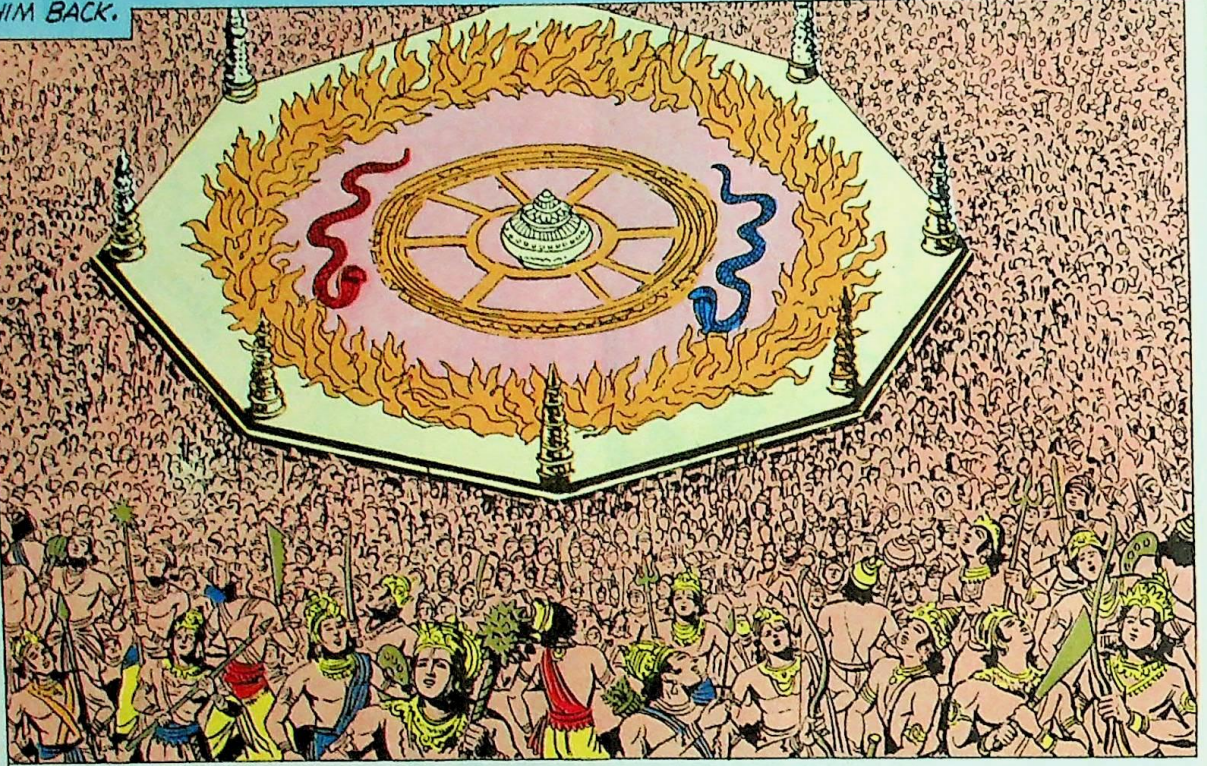
AS INDRA STOOD  
WATCHING, THE  
CHIEF OF THE  
GUARDS GAVE  
ORDERS.

PUT ON YOUR ARMOUR.  
PICK UP YOUR FAVOURITE  
WEAPONS. TAKE YOUR POSI-  
TION AROUND THE FIRE  
IN THIS FORMATION...

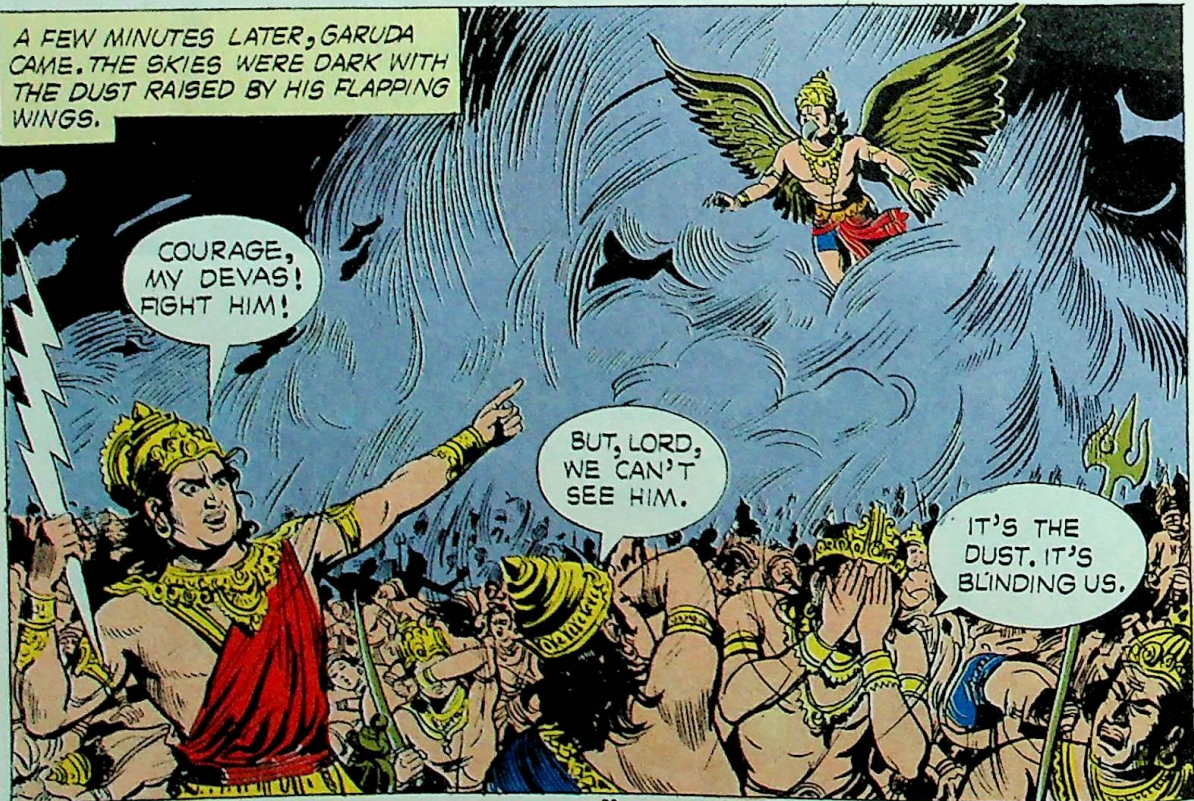




AND THE DEVAS WITH THEIR KING AWAITED GARUDA'S ARRIVAL, FULLY PREPARED TO BEAT HIM BACK.



A FEW MINUTES LATER, GARUDA CAME. THE SKIES WERE DARK WITH THE DUST RAISED BY HIS FLAPPING WINGS.



COURAGE,  
MY DEVAS!  
FIGHT HIM!

BUT, LORD,  
WE CAN'T  
SEE HIM.

IT'S THE  
DUST. IT'S  
BLINDING US.



INDRA TURNED TO THE GOD OF THE WINDS.

O VAYU, DISPEL THIS SHOWER OF DUST! ABATE THE STORM! ONLY YOU CAN DO IT.



VAYU DREW IN HIS BREATH...



... AND WITH ONE LARGE PUFF BLEW AWAY THE DUST.



AH! THERE HE IS.

ATTACK HIM!

DON'T SPARE EVEN A SINGLE FEATHER!

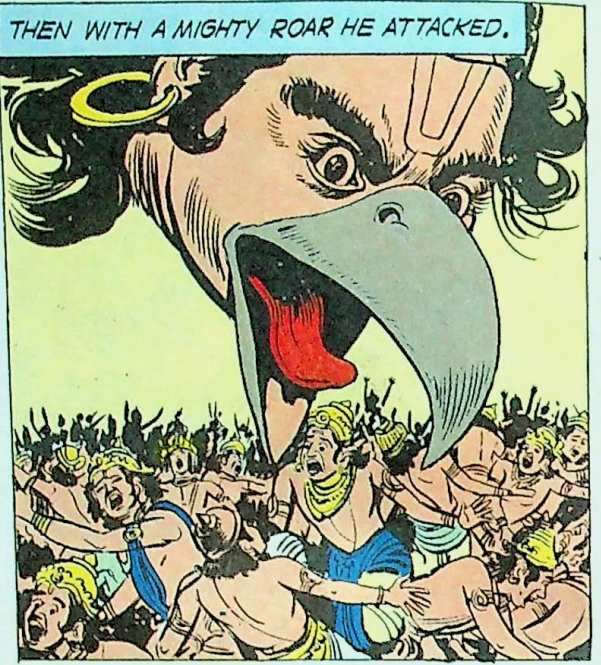
AS GARUDA HOVERED ABOVE THEM, THE DEVAS ATTACKED HIM WITH THEIR DOUBLE-EDGED BROADSWORDS, SPIKED IRON MACES, POINTED LANCES AND MANY A DISCUS.





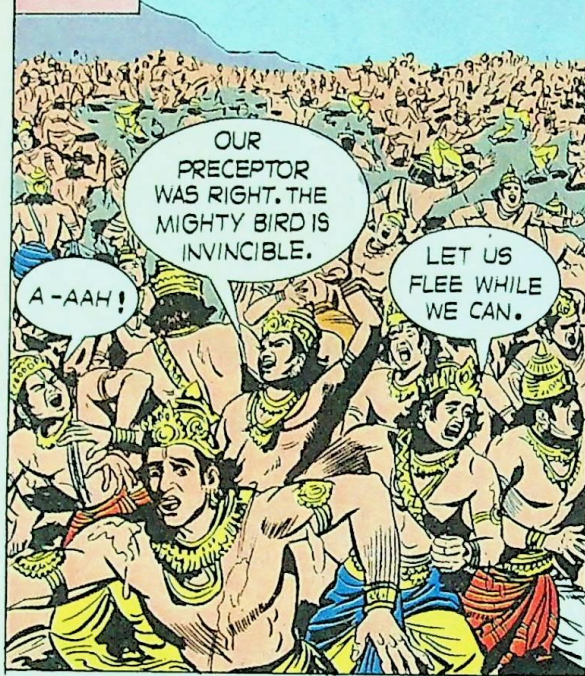
FOR A WHILE, GARUDA HUMoured THE DEVAS AND LET THEIR WEAPONS GRAZE HIS BODY,

THEN WITH A MIGHTY ROAR HE ATTACKED.





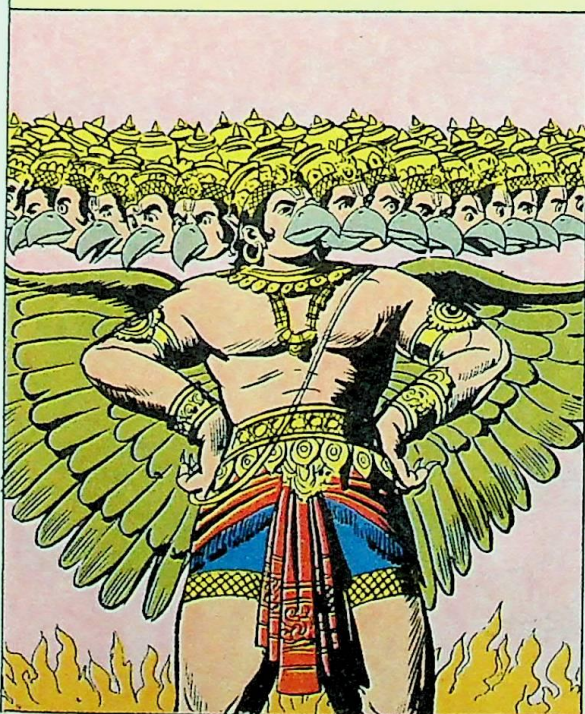
OVERCOME BY THE ONSLAUGHT, THE DEVAS BEGAN TO FLEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS, THE BLOOD FLOWING COPIOUSLY FROM THEIR MANGLED BODIES.



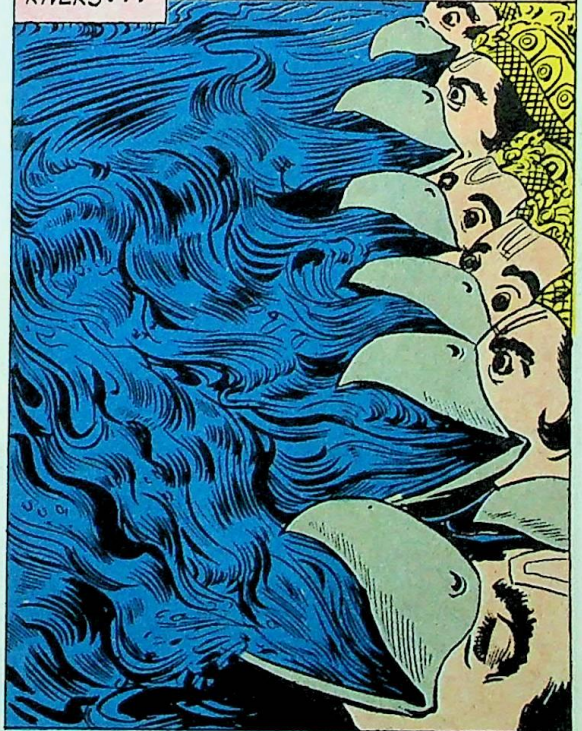
HAVING DEALT WITH THE DEVAS, GARUDA NOW HAD TO TACKLE THE WALL OF FIRE AROUND THE POT OF AMRIT.



CAPABLE OF CHANGING HIS FORM AT WILL, GARUDA ASSUMED NINETY TIMES NINETY MOUTHS...

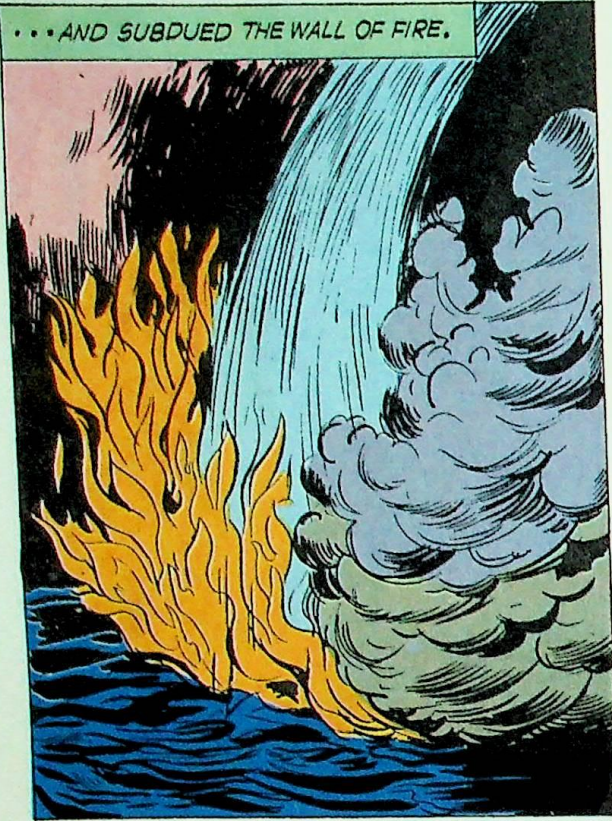


... FILLED THEM WITH THE WATERS OF SEVERAL RIVERS...

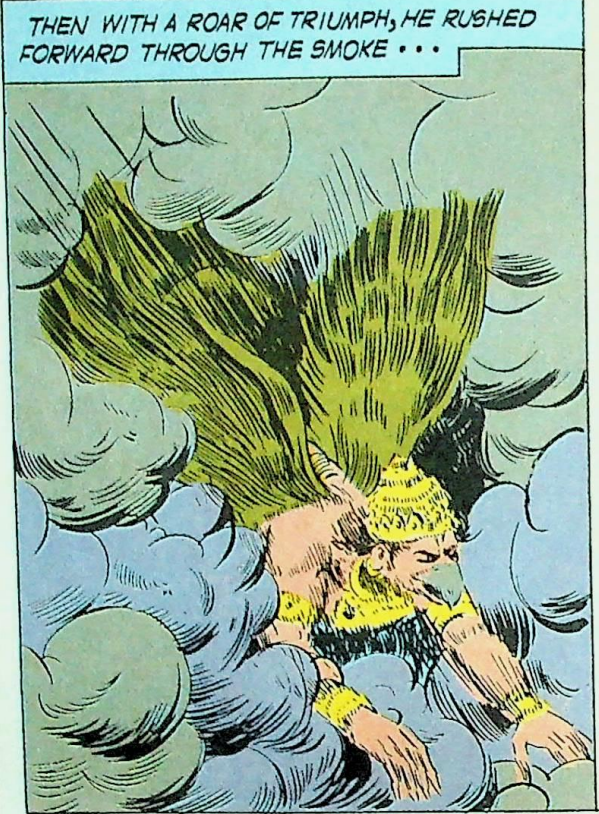




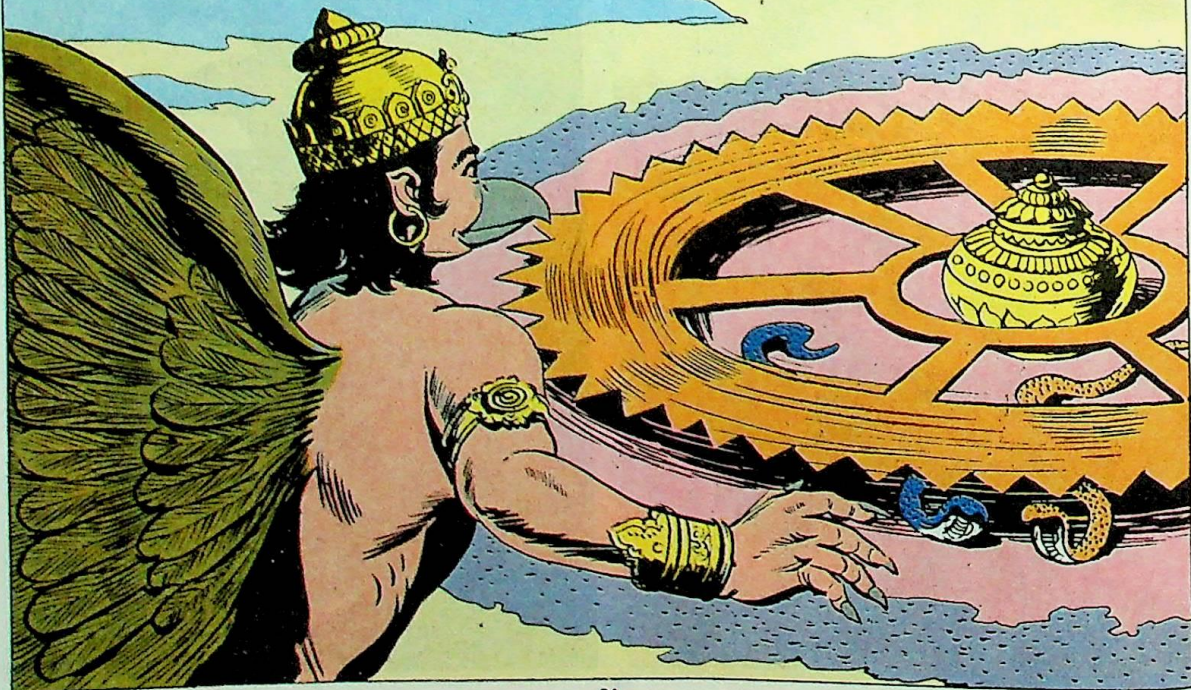
...AND SUBDUED THE WALL OF FIRE.



THEN WITH A ROAR OF TRIUMPH, HE RUSHED FORWARD THROUGH THE SMOKE ...

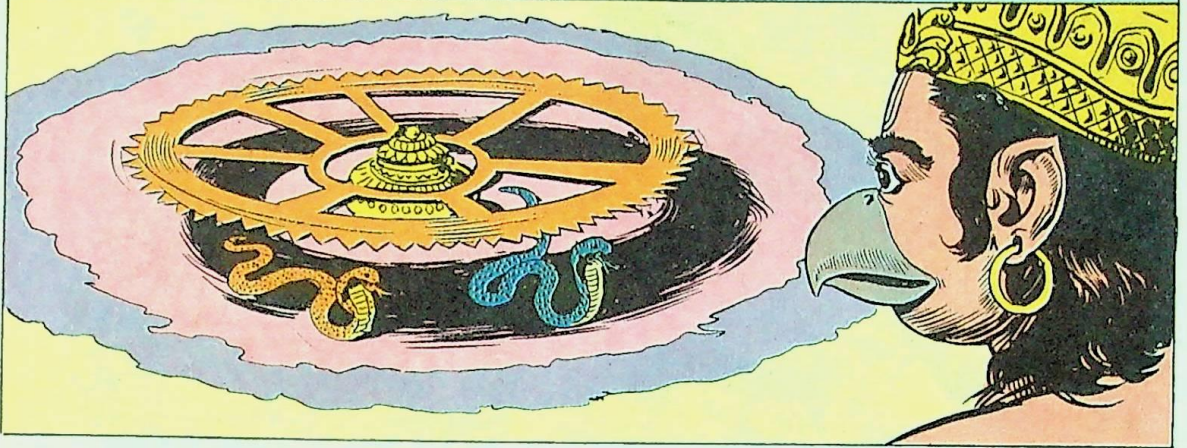


...AND CAME TO A SUDDEN HALT. A REVOLVING WHEEL WITH A SHARP EDGE OF FINE, TEMPERED STEEL STOOD BETWEEN HIM AND THE POT OF AMRIT.





AS HIS GAZE FELL ON THE POT BELOW THE WHEEL, HE SAW TWO POISONOUS SERPENTS — THEIR TONGUES DARTING IN FURY, THEIR BLAZING EYES EVER WATCHFUL — STANDING GUARD OVER IT.



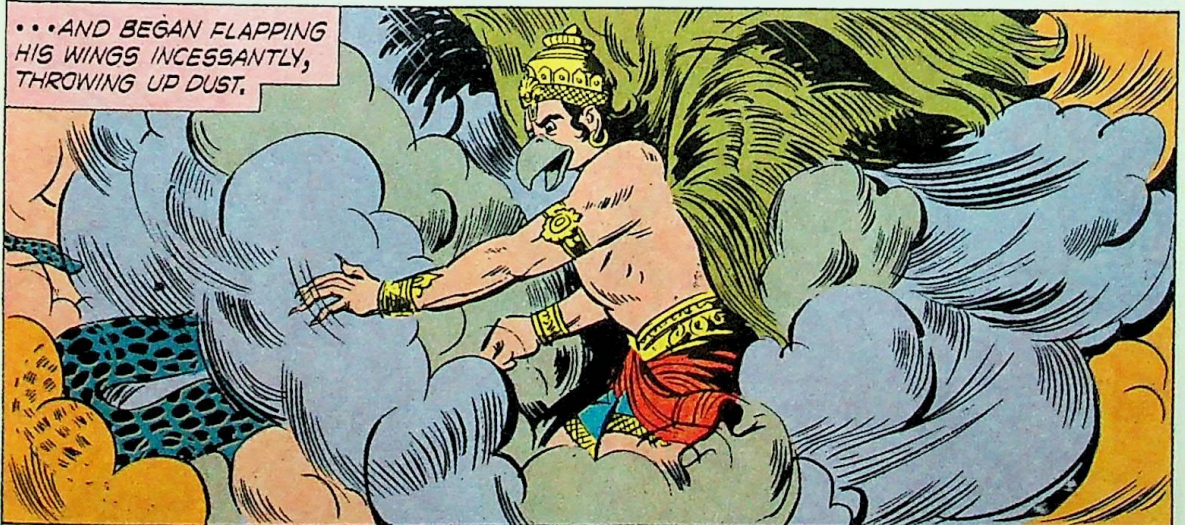
GARUDA WAS UNPERTURBED, IN AN INSTANT HE REDUCED HIS SIZE . . .



. . . SLID UNDER THE WHEEL . . .



. . . AND BEGAN FLAPPING HIS WINGS INCESSANTLY, THROWING UP DUST.





AND BEFORE THE BLINDED SERPENTS KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, THEY WERE KILLED.



GARUDA THEN SNATCHED THE POT OF AMRIT AND...



... SUDDENLY BEGAN TO GROW — SHATTERING THE WHEEL INTO A MILLION PIECES WITH THE FORCE OF HIS ACTION.





WITH A CRY OF TRIUMPH, HE ROSE INTO THE SKY.



AS HE FLEW ALONG, VISHNU SAW HIM.

HIS ACT OF SELF-DENIAL PLEASES ME. HE HAS THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY IN HIS POSSESSION BUT HAS NOT TOUCHED A DROP OF IT, NOT EVEN THE DEVAS COULD HAVE RESISTED THE TEMPTATION.



O GREAT ONE, I WISH TO GRANT YOU TWO BOONS.



THEN LET ME BE ABOVE YOU, AND LET ME BE IMMORTAL AND EVER FREE FROM DISEASE.







O KING OF THE DEVAS,  
YOUR MIGHTY WEAPON  
HAS NOT HARMED  
EVEN ONE OF MY  
FEATHERS.

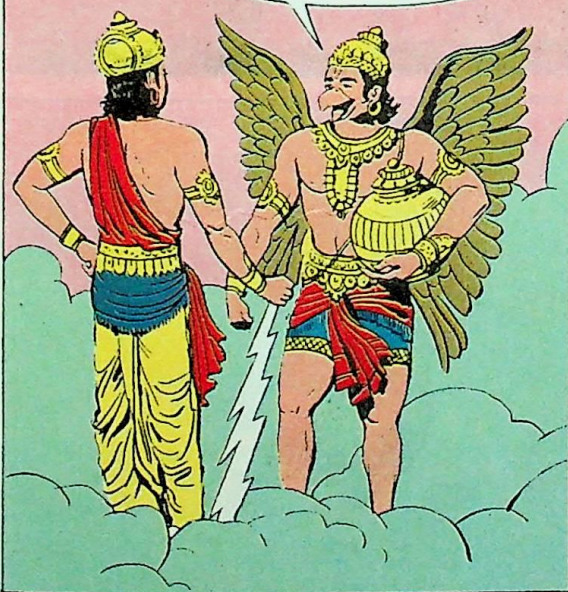


INDRA WAS AMAZED.

O GREATEST OF BIRDS,  
I WANT TO KNOW  
THE LIMIT OF YOUR  
STRENGTH. I ALSO WANT  
ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP  
WITH YOU.



LET THERE BE FRIENDSHIP  
BETWEEN US, AS YOU DESIRE.  
- AND NOW THAT YOU  
ARE MY FRIEND, I'LL TELL  
YOU HOW STRONG I AM.



I CAN BEAR  
ON ONE OF MY  
FEATHERS, THIS EARTH  
WITH HER MOUNTAINS,  
FORESTS AND OCEANS  
AND YOU! MY STRENGTH IS  
SUCH THAT I CAN CARRY  
WITHOUT FATIGUE, ALL THE  
WORLDS PUT TOGETHER  
WITH THEIR ANIMATE AND  
INANIMATE OBJECTS.





INDRA WAS IMPRESSED.

ACCEPT MY  
SINCERE FRIENDSHIP.  
AND IF YOU HAVE NO USE  
FOR THE NECTAR —  
RETURN IT TO ME, THOSE  
TO WHOM YOU WISH TO  
GIVE IT WILL ALWAYS  
OPPOSE US.

I CANNOT  
RETURN THE  
NECTAR. BUT  
I CAN HELP YOU  
RETRIEVE IT.

AND GARUDA TOLD INDRA  
HOW HE COULD DO IT.

INDRA WAS PLEASED.

ACCEPT FROM  
ME ANY BOON  
THAT YOU  
WANT.

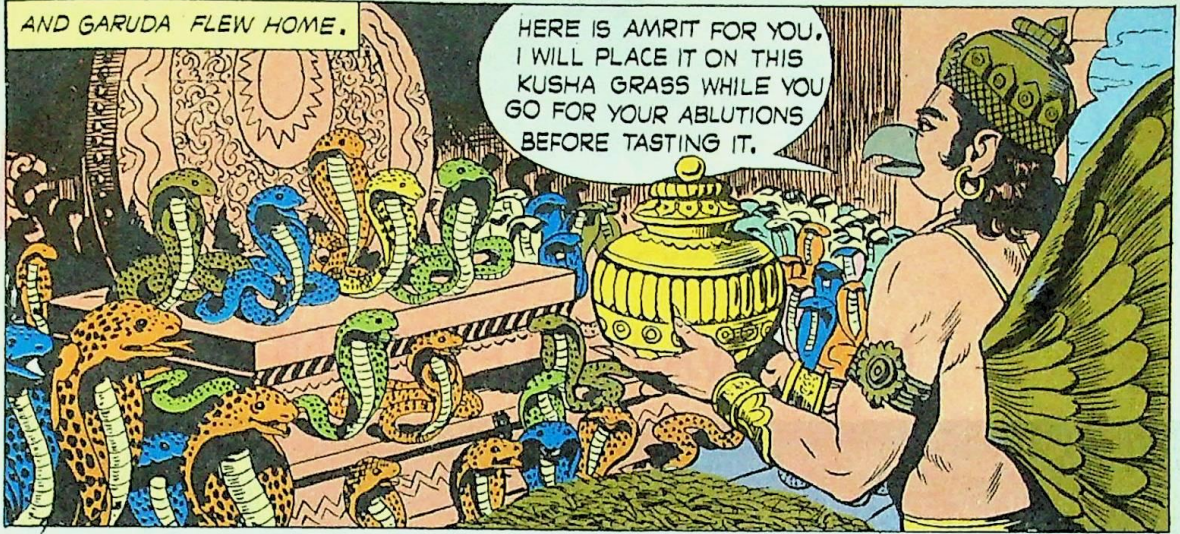
WASN'T MY MOTHER'S  
SLAVERY CAUSED BY  
THE DECEPTION OF THE  
WICKED SONS OF  
KADRU?

THEN HENCEFORTH  
LET SNAKES BECOME  
MY NATURAL FOOD.

SO BE IT,  
MY FRIEND.



AND GARUDA FLEW HOME.



HERE IS AMRIT FOR YOU.  
I WILL PLACE IT ON THIS  
KUSHA GRASS WHILE YOU  
GO FOR YOUR ABLUTIONS  
BEFORE TASTING IT.



LET MY MOTHER BECOME FREE FROM  
THIS MOMENT, AS I HAVE DONE  
YOUR BIDDING.

YOUR MOTHER  
IS FREE, WE WILL  
SOON BE BACK.  
YOU MAY GO.

AND THE SNAKES WENT FOR THEIR RITUALISTIC  
ABLUTIONS.



AS PLANNED, IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THE  
SCENE, INDRA CAME THERE AND TOOK AWAY  
THE POT OF AMRIT.



AND FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, VINATA  
WAS FREED FOREVER FROM BONDAGE.





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# PRAHLAD



*PRAHLAD WAS THE SON OF THE ASURA, HIRANYAKASHIPU.*



*HIRANYAKASHIPU'S BROTHER HIRANYAKSHA HAD BEEN SLAIN BY VISHNU.*

O BROTHER ASURAS!  
I SHALL DESTROY VISHNU  
AND KEEP THE OTHER  
GODS IN HEAVEN  
SUBDUED.



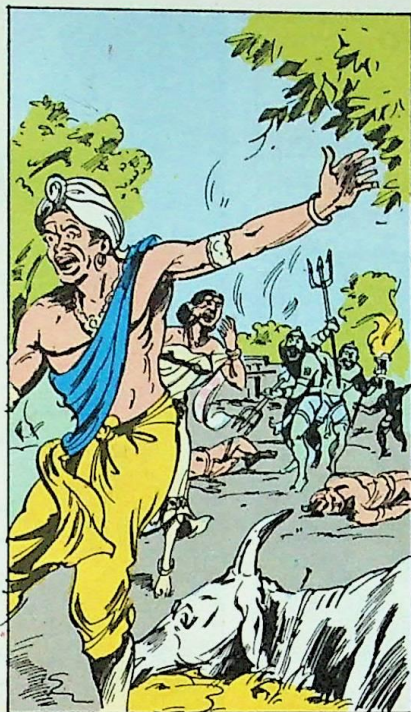
GO TO EARTH, MY BROTHERS,  
AND CRUSH ALL THOSE  
WHO WORSHIP  
VISHNU.



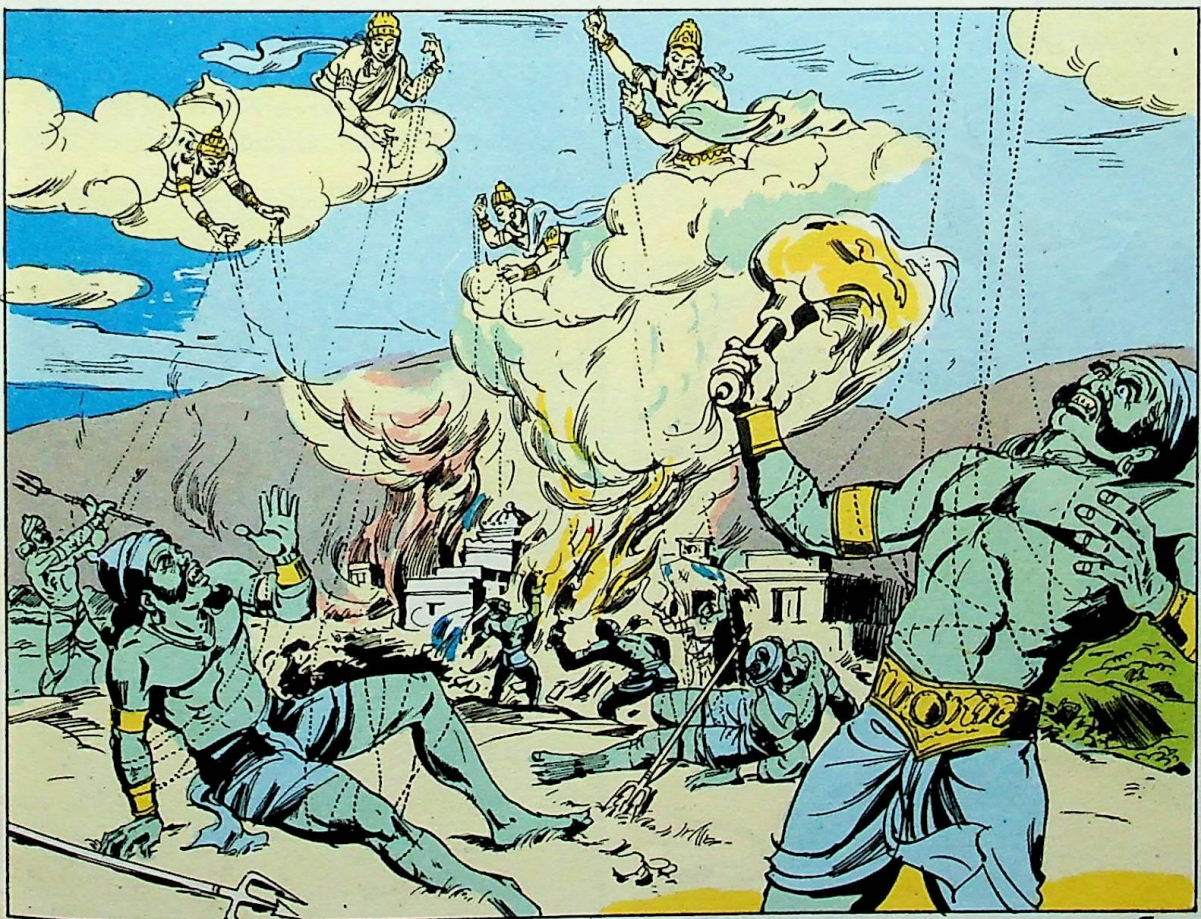
THE ASURAS, BY NATURE FOND  
OF OPPRESSING OTHERS, JOYFULLY  
OBEYED THE COMMAND.







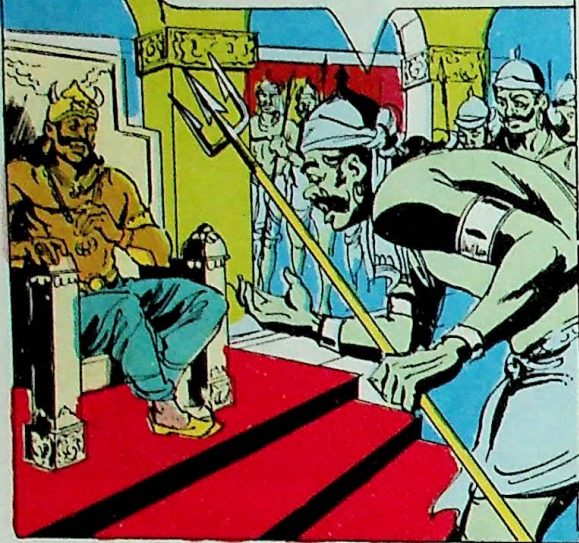
WHILE THE ASURAS WERE BUSY HARASSING THE DEVOTEES OF VISHNU,  
THE GODS WENT ABOUT PROTECTING THEM.



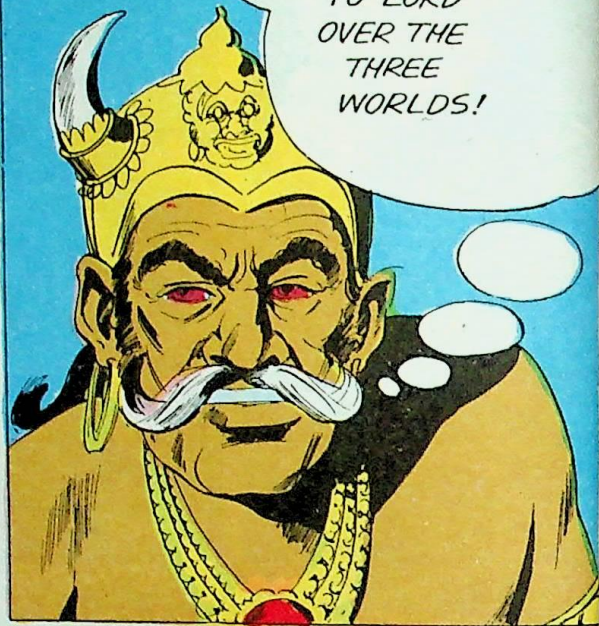


THE ASURAS RETURNED TO  
HIRANYAKASHIPU.

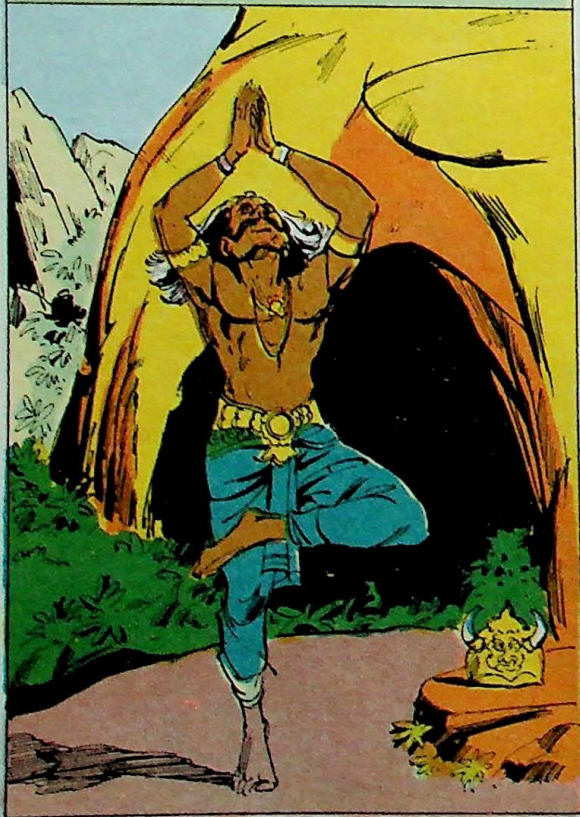
LORD! WE CANNOT  
CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS.  
THE SERVANTS OF VISHNU  
THWART OUR EFFORTS.



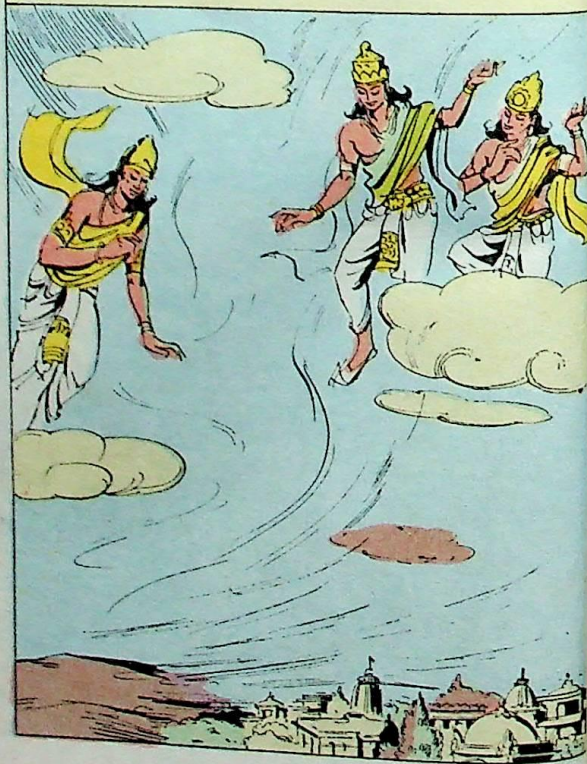
I WILL HAVE  
TO MATCH MY  
POWERS TO VISHNU'S  
TO LORD  
OVER THE  
THREE  
WORLDS!



SO HE BEGAN TO PERFORM  
SEVERE PENANCES.



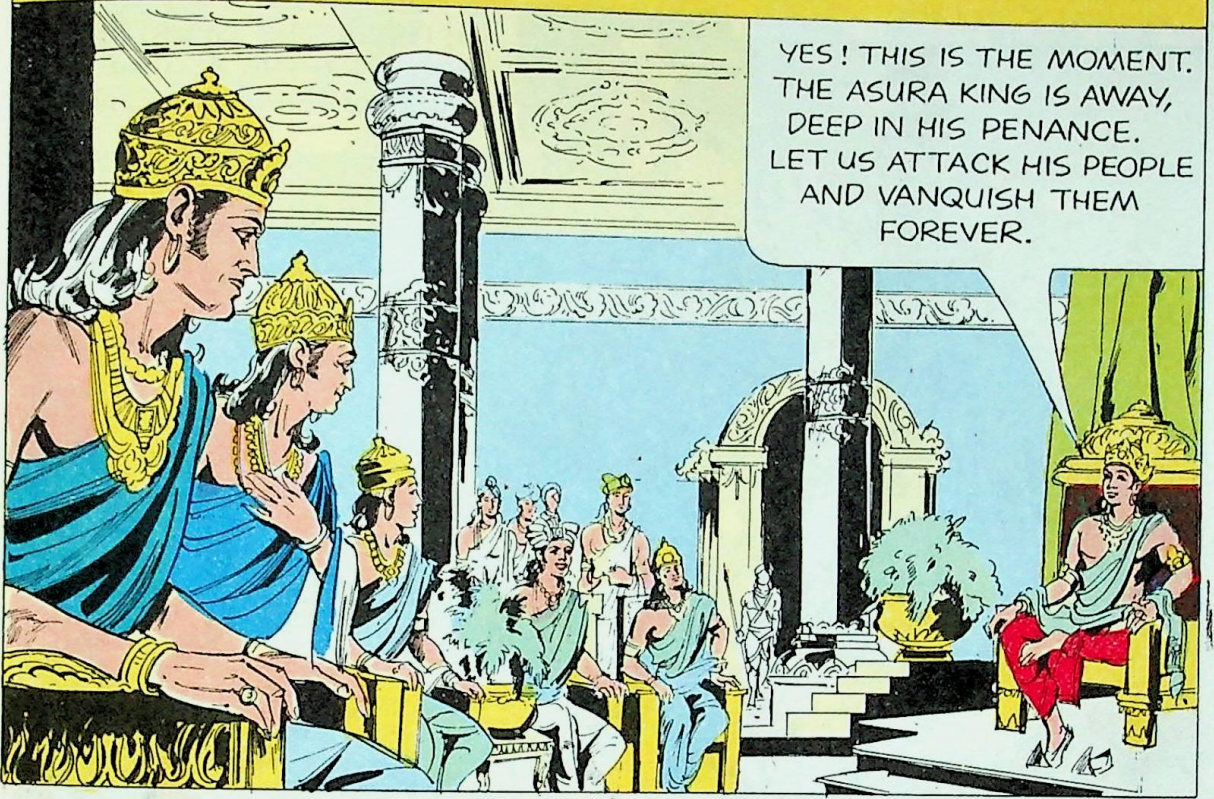
WHEN THE GODS FOUND THAT VISHNU'S  
DEVOTEES NO LONGER NEEDED THEIR  
PROTECTION THEY RETURNED TO  
THEIR HEAVENLY ABODE.





THERE THEY HELD COUNCIL.

YES! THIS IS THE MOMENT.  
THE ASURA KING IS AWAY,  
DEEP IN HIS PENANCE.  
LET US ATTACK HIS PEOPLE  
AND VANQUISH THEM  
FOREVER.



THE ASURAS WERE PANIC-  
STRICKEN.

THE GODS ARE PLANNING  
TO ATTACK US. WITHOUT  
OUR LORD WE ARE  
HELPLESS.

FLY!

FLY!



IN THEIR HASTE AND ANXIETY TO  
SAVE THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY DID NOT  
BOTHR TO TAKE EVEN THEIR WIVES,  
CATTLE OR MONEY.

WAIT!

DO NOT LEAVE  
US BEHIND!





THE GODS RANSACKED THE ASURA CITY AND DESTROYED HIRANYA-KASHIPU'S PALACE.

AH! I HAVE THE GREATEST BOOTY OF THE ASURAS - HIRANYAKASHIPU'S QUEEN.



WHILE INDRA WAS TRANSPORTING HER TO HEAVEN, HE MET SAGE NARADA.

WAIT! YOU SHOULD NOT CARRY OFF THIS GUILTLESS QUEEN, THE CHASTE WIFE OF ANOTHER.



SHE IS GOING TO BE THE MOTHER OF HIRANYA-KASHIPU'S SON. SHE SHALL BE WITH ME TILL THE CHILD IS BORN!

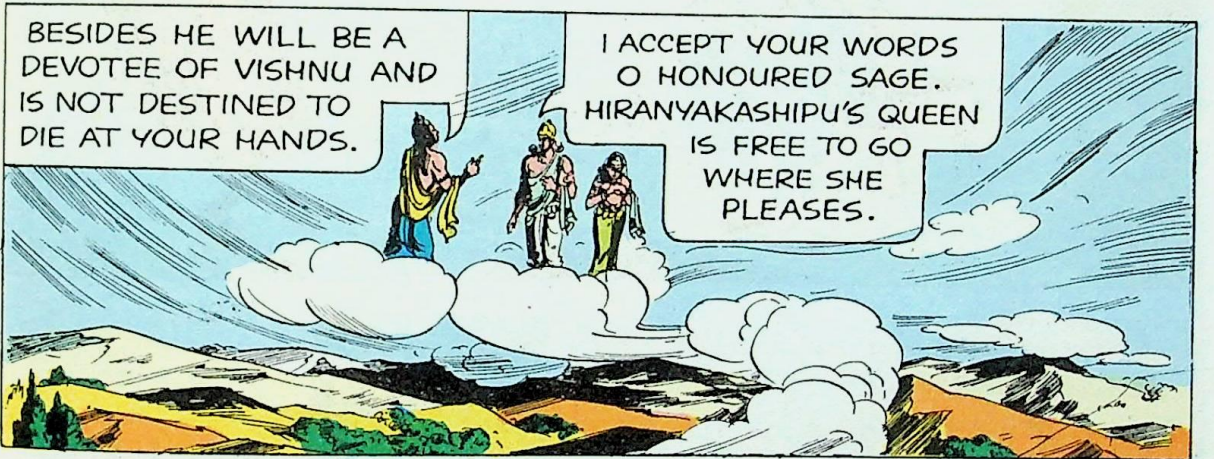






ONCE THE CHILD  
IS BORN AND  
I HAVE SLAIN IT,  
I SHALL  
LET HER GO.

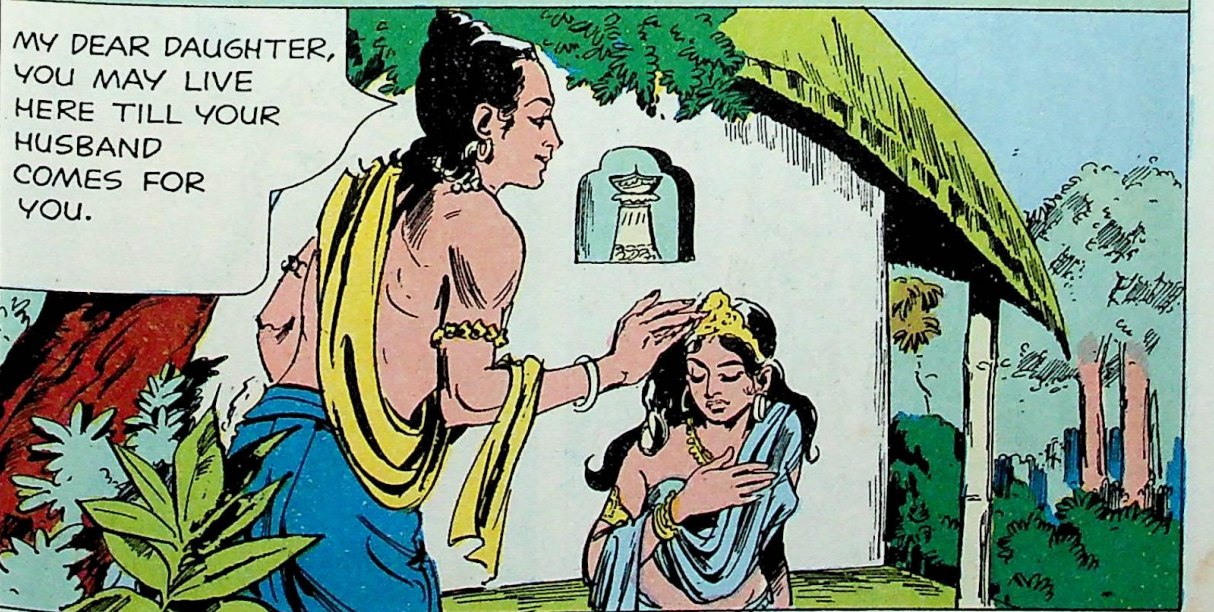
BUT THE CHILD,  
PRAHLAD, IN HER,  
IS NOT LIKE THE  
FATHER.  
HE IS  
DESTINED TO  
BE DIFFER-  
ENT AND  
GREAT.



BESIDES HE WILL BE A  
DEVOTEE OF VISHNU AND  
IS NOT DESTINED TO  
DIE AT YOUR HANDS.

I ACCEPT YOUR WORDS  
O HONoured SAGE.  
HIRANYAKASHIPU'S QUEEN  
IS FREE TO GO  
WHERE SHE  
PLEASES.

INDRA WENT BACK TO HEAVEN AND SAGE NARADA TOOK HIRANYA-  
KASHIPU'S WIFE TO HIS OWN HERMITAGE.



MY DEAR DAUGHTER,  
YOU MAY LIVE  
HERE TILL YOUR  
HUSBAND  
COMES FOR  
YOU.



SHE LIVED IN THE ASHRAM OF THE GREAT SAGE AND LEARNED ABOUT RELIGION AND THE GLORY OF VISHNU FROM HIM. THE CHILD WITHIN HER, PRAHLAD, TOO, ABSORBED ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE.

VISHNU IS THE SOUL OF ALL CREATED THINGS AND IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE.



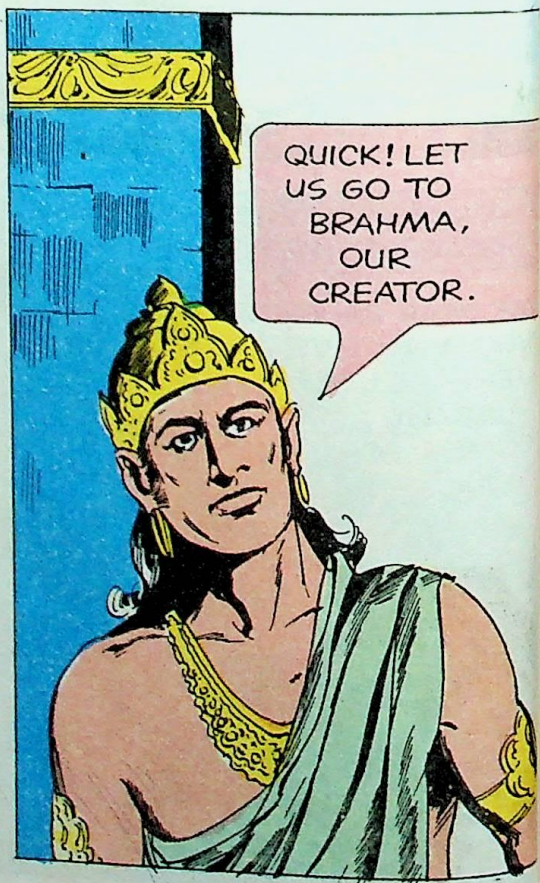
IN THE MEANWHILE, WHEN INDRA REACHED HEAVEN—

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HIRANYAKASHIPU'S  
AUSTERITIES ARE  
SCORCHING THE  
THREE WORLDS.



QUICK! LET  
US GO TO  
BRAHMA,  
OUR  
CREATOR.

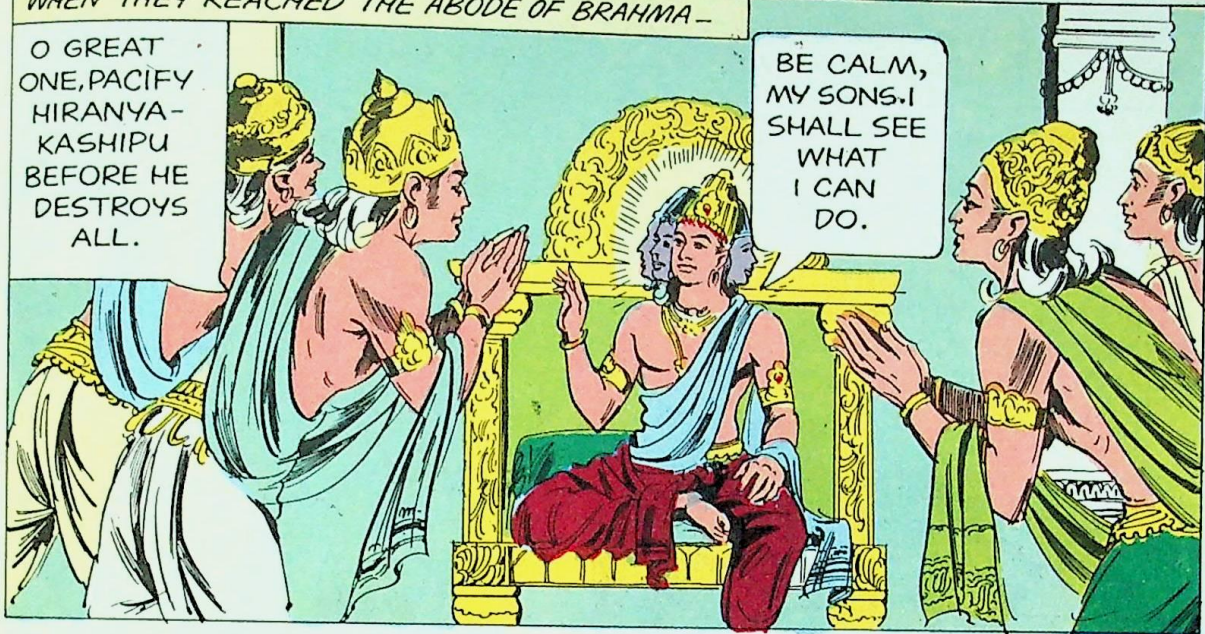




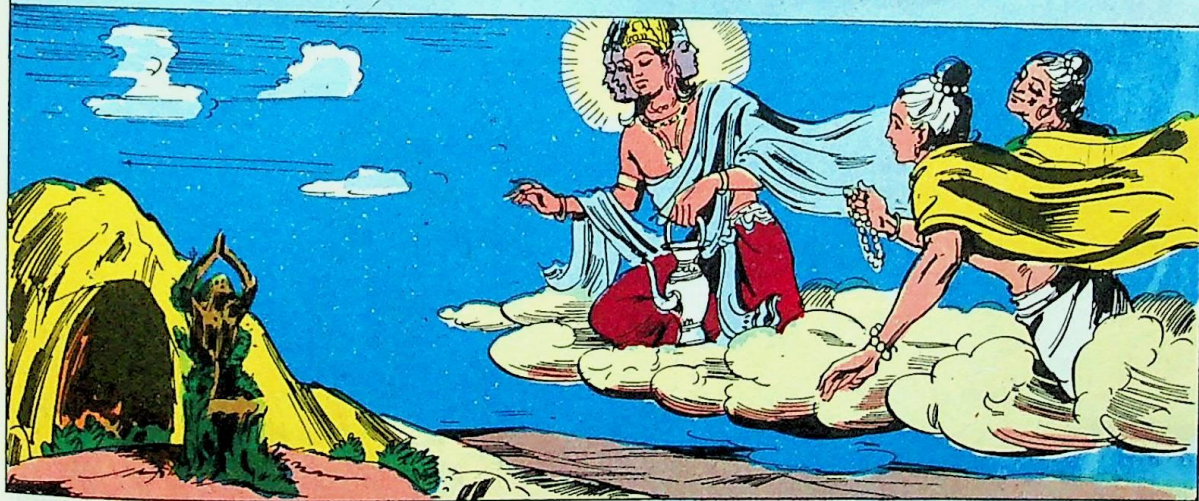
WHEN THEY REACHED THE ABODE OF BRAHMA—

O GREAT  
ONE, PACIFY  
HIRANYA-  
KASHIPU  
BEFORE HE  
DESTROYS  
ALL.

BE CALM,  
MY SONS. I  
SHALL SEE  
WHAT  
I CAN  
DO.



THE MIGHTY BRAHMA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CELESTIAL SAGES, WENT  
TO HIRANYAKASHIPU'S HERMITAGE.



BRAHMA WAS  
ASTONISHED BY  
THE SIGHT.

ARISE HIRANYA-  
KASHIPU. ANY BOON  
THAT YOU ASK OF ME  
SHALL BE YOURS.





AS SOON AS THE DROPS OF BRAHMA'S HOLY WATER TOUCHED HIM, HIRANYAKASHIPU CAME OUT OF HIS TRANCE AND SALUTED BRAHMA.

IF SO, THEN I PRAY THAT MY DEATH BE NOT CAUSED BY MAN OR BEAST, WITH A WEAPON OR WITHOUT, DURING DAY OR NIGHT, INDOORS OR OUTDOORS, ON EARTH OR IN THE SKY. GRANT ME THE UNDISPUTED LORDSHIP OVER THE MATERIAL WORLD.



MY SON! THE BOONS YOU HAVE ASKED OF ME ARE OBTAINED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. YET I GRANT THEM TO YOU.



BRAHMA DEPARTED AND HIRANYAKASHIPU WAS OVERJOYED.



HIRANYAKASHIPU BROUGHT HIS WIFE BACK TO THEIR CITY WHERE PRAHLAD WAS BORN.

MY SUCCESSOR!  
YOU SHALL  
VANQUISH  
THE  
GODS.



HIRANYAKASHIPU, WITH HIS NEW POWERS, RENEWED HIS HOSTILITIES AGAINST VISHNU AND HIS FOLLOWERS.



HE DROVE THE GODS OUT OF THEIR ABODE AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF IN HEAVEN.





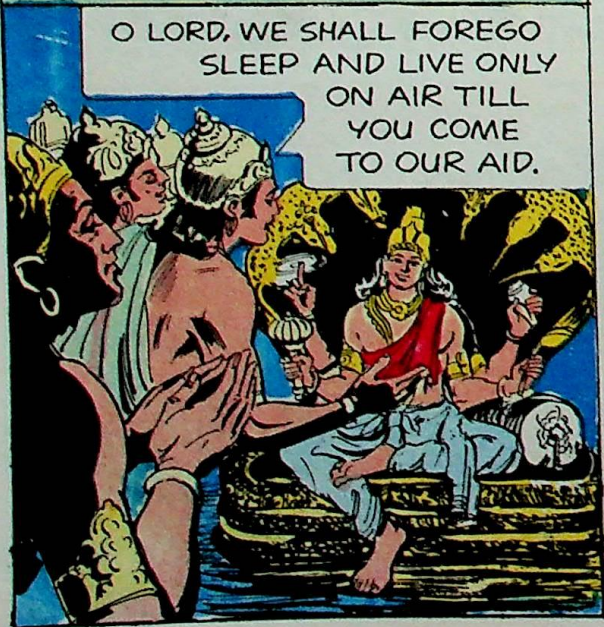
ALL THE GODS IN HEAVEN EXCEPT BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA, BEGAN TO WORSHIP THE INTOXICATED HIRANYAKASHIPU.

GOOD! YOU ARE WISE TO WORSHIP ME; OR IS IT FEAR THAT I MIGHT SLAY YOU OTHERWISE?



AT LAST THE OPPRESSED GODS AND DEVOTEES OF VISHNU APPEALED TO HIM.

O LORD, WE SHALL FOREGO SLEEP AND LIVE ONLY ON AIR TILL YOU COME TO OUR AID.



AFTER A FEW DAYS...

DO NOT BE AFRAID! I WILL PUT AN END TO THE OPPRESSION OF HIRANYAKASHIPU. I WILL SLAY HIM WHEN HE BEGINS TO PERSECUTE HIS OWN SON, THE HIGH-SOULED, PEACE-LOVING PRAHLAD.



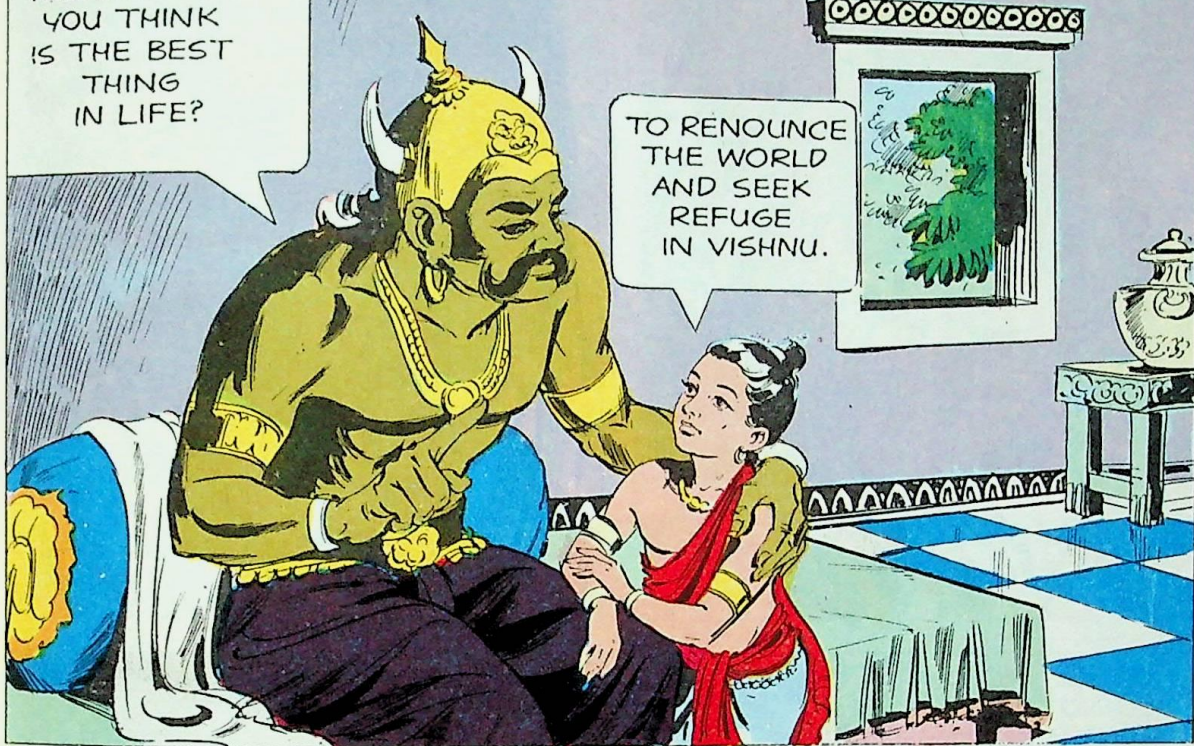
THE CELESTIALS WENT AWAY CONSIDERING THE ASURAS AS ALREADY VANQUISHED.



PRAHLAD IN THE MEANWHILE WAS GROWING UP AND WAS HIRANYAKASHIPU'S DELIGHT. ONE DAY—

DEAR SON! TELL ME. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST THING IN LIFE?

TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD AND SEEK REFUGE IN VISHNU.



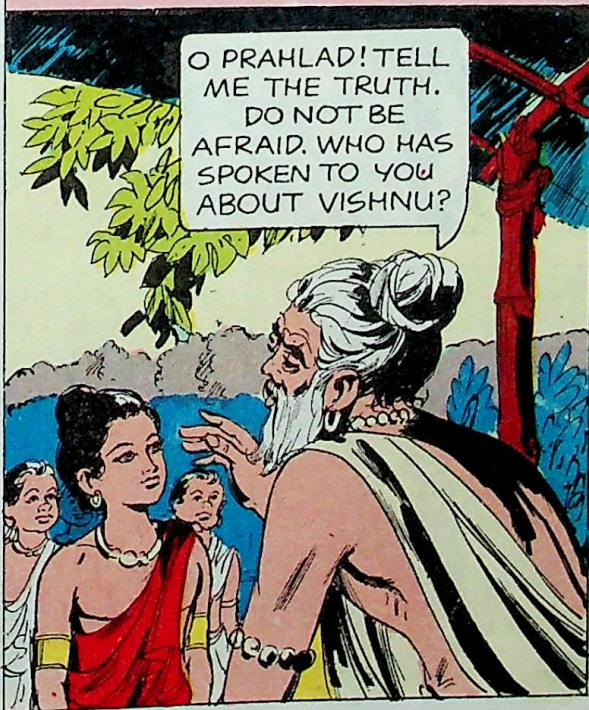
HIRANYAKASHIPU LAUGHED. THEN HE CALLED HIS SON'S TEACHER TO HIM.

GUARD HIM CLOSELY. I THINK THAT THE FOLLOWERS OF VISHNU ARE SECRETLY INFLUENCING HIM. DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.



PRAHLAD WENT TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF HIS TEACHER.

O PRAHLAD! TELL ME THE TRUTH. DO NOT BE AFRAID. WHO HAS SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT VISHNU?





WHO BUT  
VISHNU HIMSELF.  
HE FILLS ME WITH  
THE KNOWLEDGE.



HIS TEACHER WAS FURIOUS.

WHERE IS THE CANE?  
THIS BOY MUST BE  
SEVERELY  
PUNISHED.

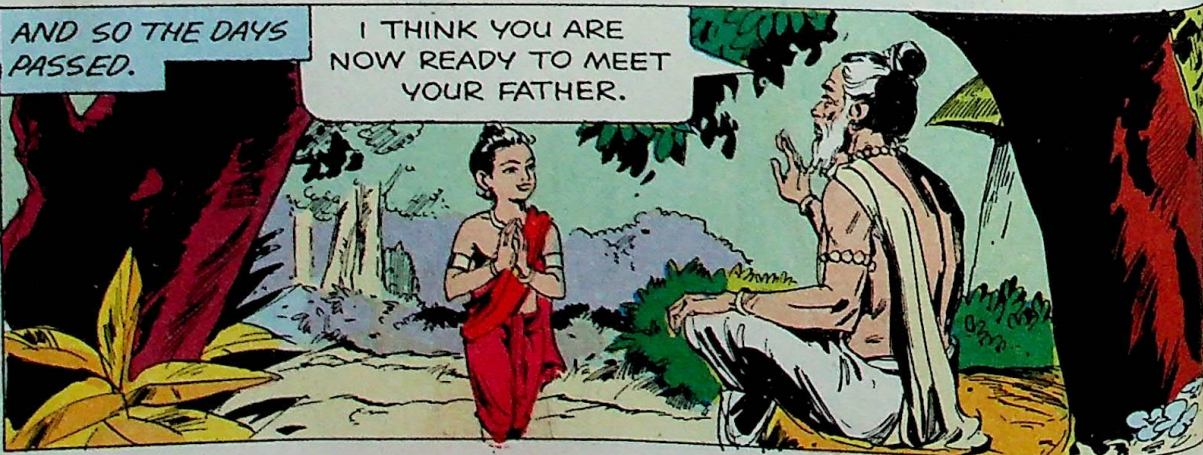


THIS WILL TEACH  
YOU NOT TO  
PRAISE VISHNU,  
THE SWORN  
ENEMY OF  
OUR  
PEOPLE.



AND SO THE DAYS  
PASSED.

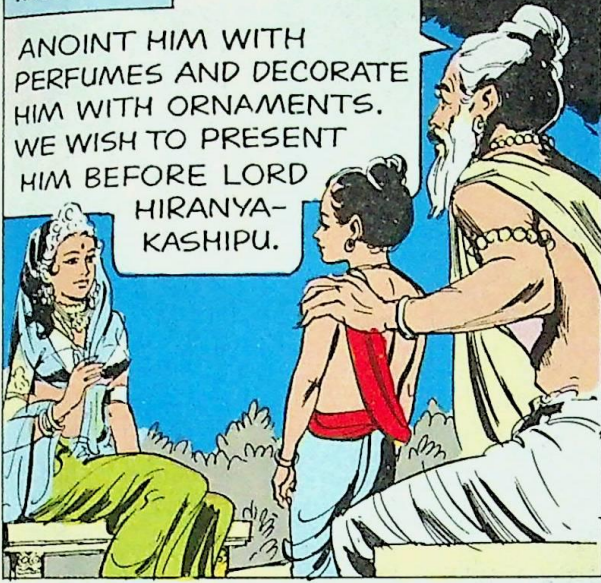
I THINK YOU ARE  
NOW READY TO MEET  
YOUR FATHER.





THE TEACHER THEN SENT FOR PRAHLAD'S MOTHER.

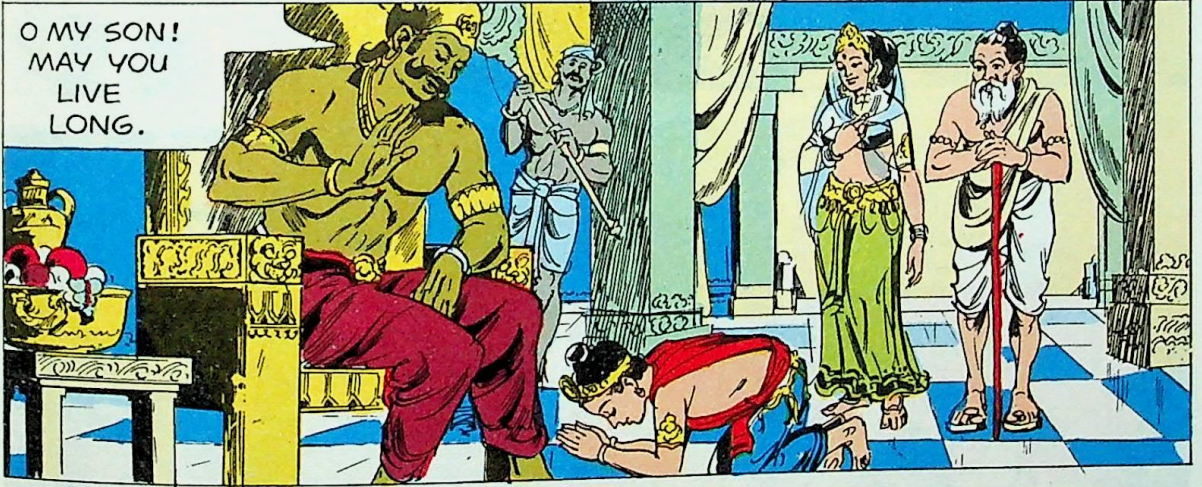
ANOINT HIM WITH PERFUMES AND DECORATE HIM WITH ORNAMENTS. WE WISH TO PRESENT HIM BEFORE LORD HIRANYAKASHIPU.




THE BEDECKED PRAHLAD WAS THEN LED TO HIRANYAKASHIPU.



O MY SON!  
MAY YOU  
LIVE  
LONG.






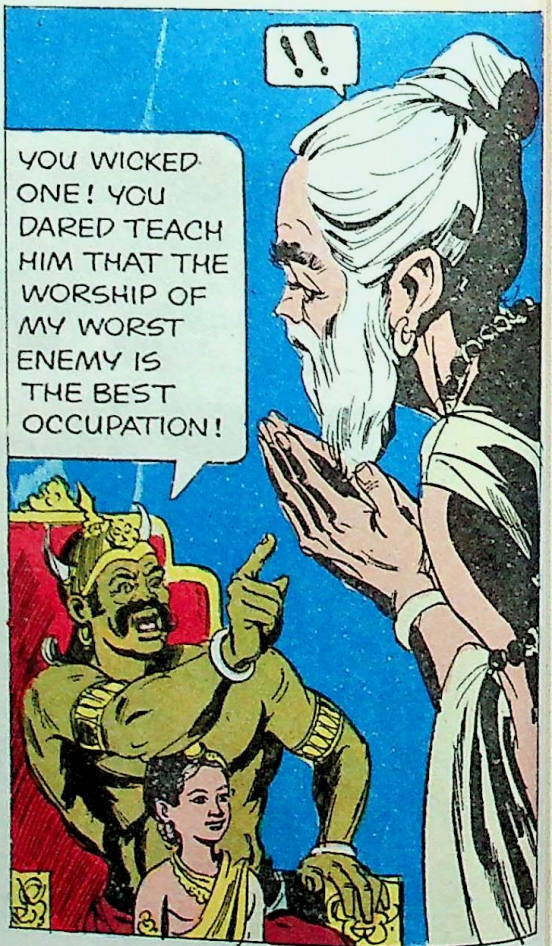


YOU HAVE BEEN  
WITH YOUR GURU A  
LONG TIME! WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
LEARNT?

I HAVE LEARNT  
THAT THE MOST  
WORTHWHILE  
OCCUPATION  
FOR ANYONE  
IS THE WORSHIP  
OF LORD VISHNU.



YOU! A  
GURU?  
EXPLAIN!



!!

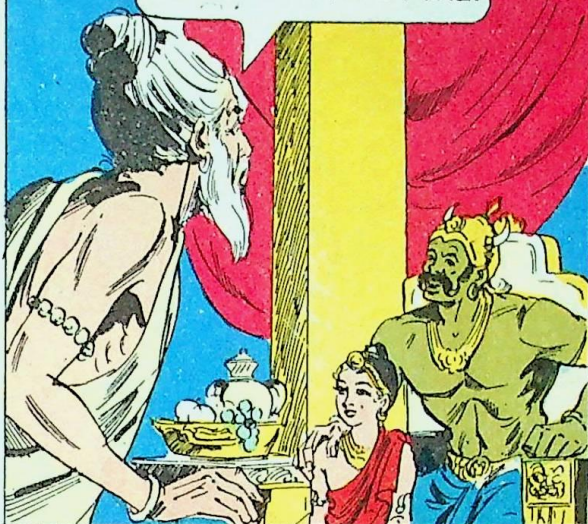
YOU WICKED  
ONE! YOU  
DARED TEACH  
HIM THAT THE  
WORSHIP OF  
MY WORST  
ENEMY IS  
THE BEST  
OCCUPATION!



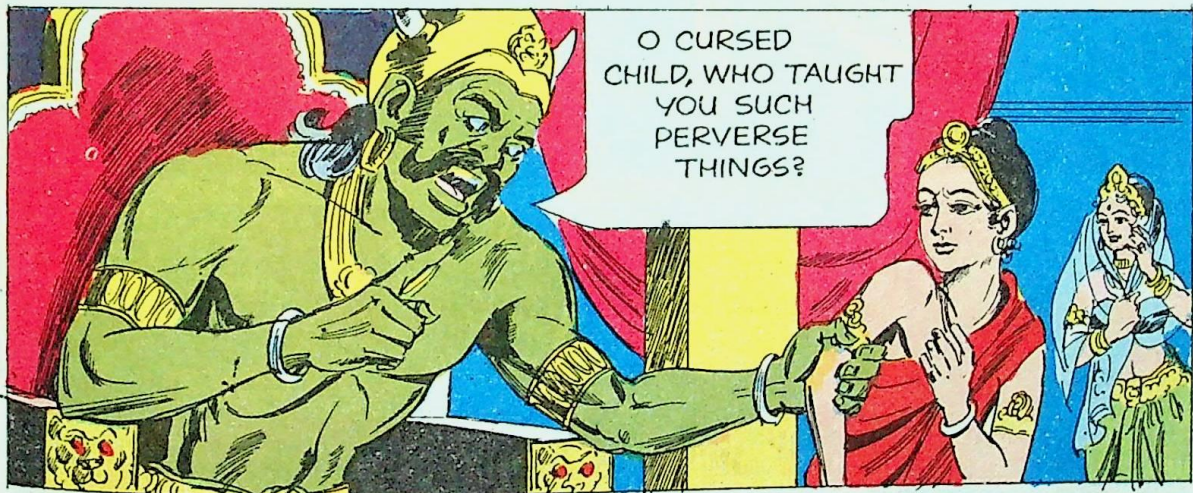
O KING, DO NOT BE  
ANGRY.  
DO  
NOT  
BLAME  
ME.



WHAT YOUR SON  
REPEATS HAS NOT  
BEEN TAUGHT BY ME.



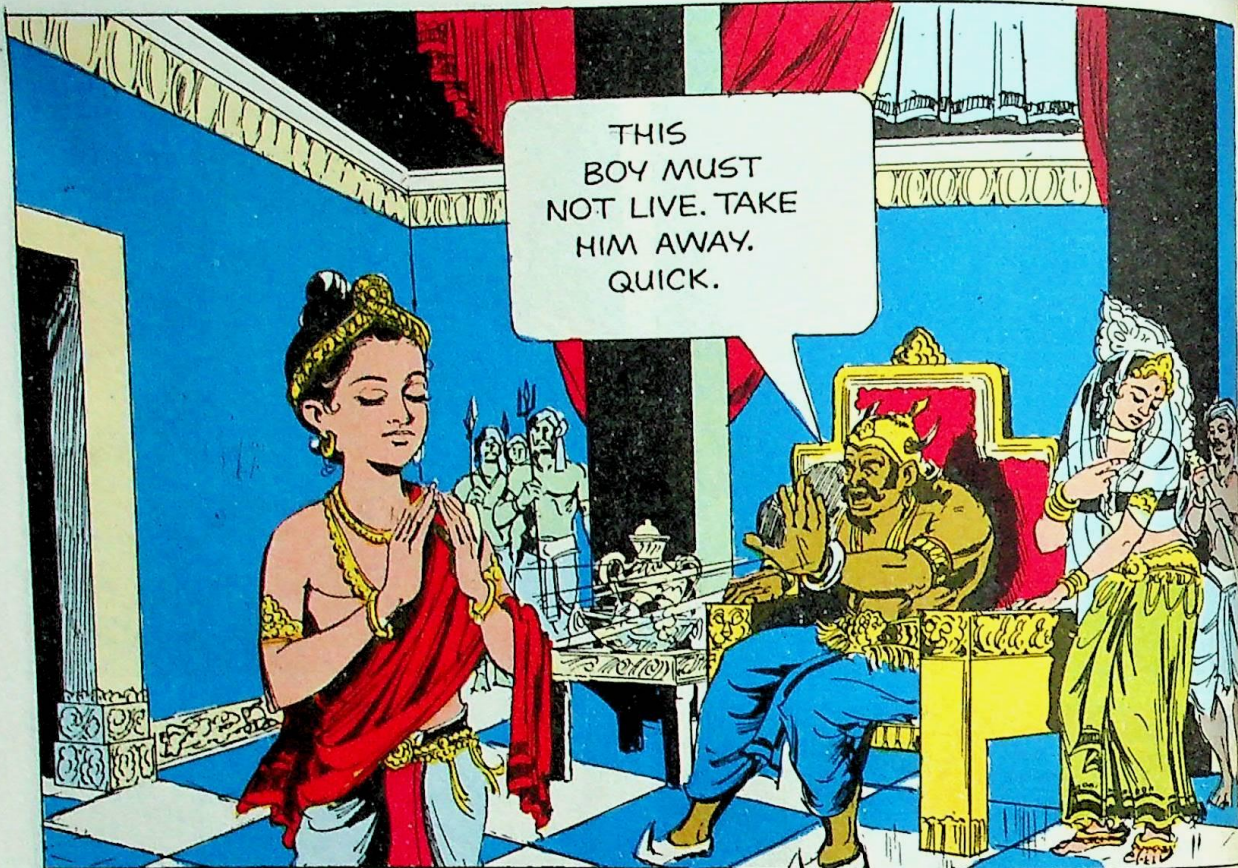
O CURSED  
CHILD, WHO TAUGHT  
YOU SUCH  
PERVERSE  
THINGS?



VISHNU. HE  
REVEALS HIMSELF  
TO ALL WHO  
ARE DEVOTED  
TO HIM.









THUS COMMANDED BY HIRANYAKASHIPU, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO ATTACK PRAHLAD.



BUT THEIR STROKES WERE OF NO AVAIL FOR PRAHLAD WAS DEEPLY ENGROSSSED IN HIS ADORATION OF VISHNU.

HE IS UNHARMED.  
I WILL HAVE TO THINK  
HARD. HOW SHALL I  
HAVE HIM KILLED?

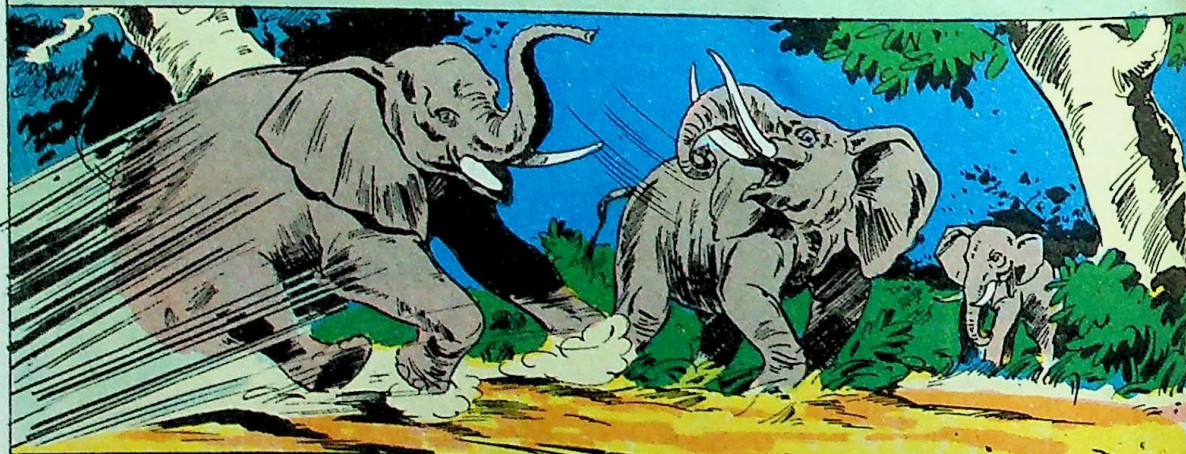




HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD THE MOST DEADLY SERPENTS BROUGHT. THEY WERE LET LOOSE ON PRAHLAD. BUT THEIR FANGS TURNED IMPOTENT.

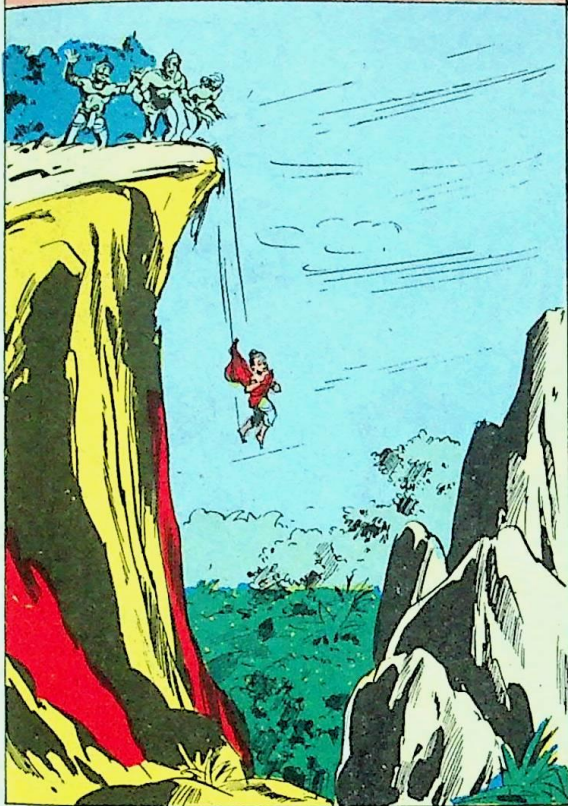


HIRANYAKASHIPU THEN CALLED FOR MIGHTY ELEPHANTS AND MADE THEM TRAMPLE UPON PRAHLAD. BUT ONCE AGAIN IT WAS THE ELEPHANTS THAT WERE INJURED.





THEN HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM  
PUSHED OFF A CLIFF AND...

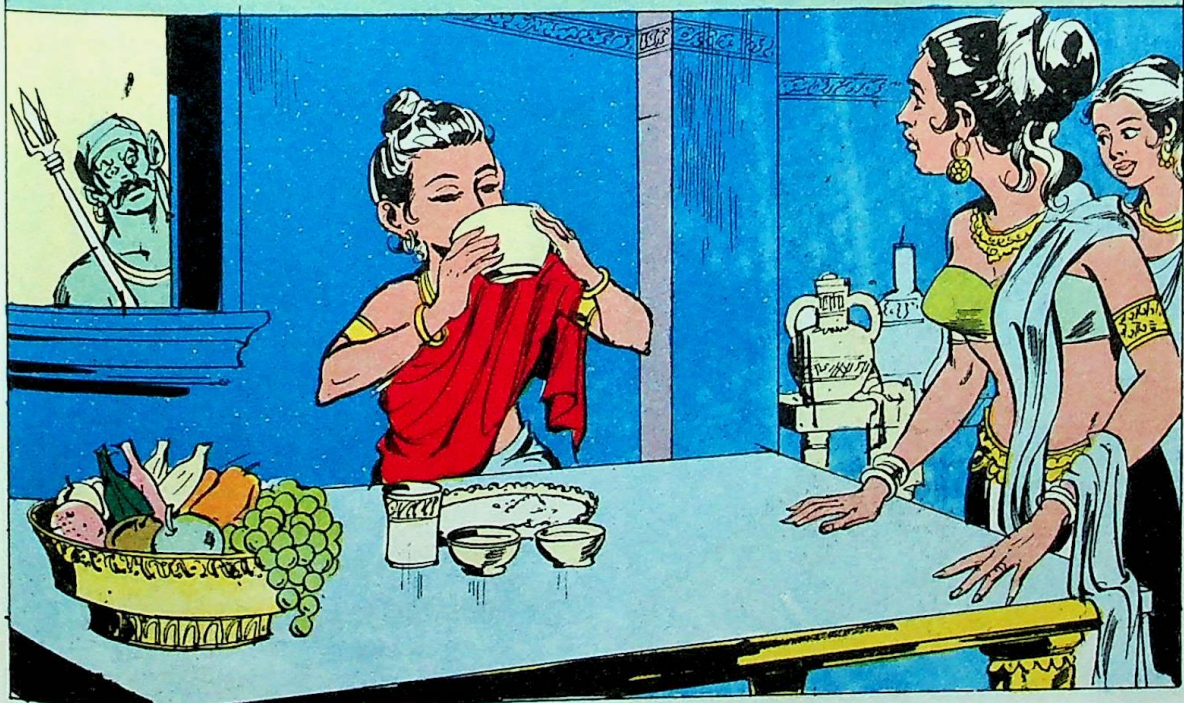


...THROWN INTO A BLAZING FIRE.



BUT NOT A HAIR ON PRAHLAD'S  
HEAD WAS SINGED.

IN DESPERATION HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM FED WITH A DEADLY POISON  
BUT IT TURNED INTO NECTAR IN PRAHLAD'S MOUTH.





INCREDIBLE!  
HAS DEATH NO  
STING  
FOR  
HIM?



HE IS IMMORTAL  
AND  
FEARS  
NOTHING.



WILL **HE**  
BE THE  
CAUSE  
OF  
MY  
DEATH?



AS HIRANYAKASHIPU SAT BROODING,  
PRAHLAD'S TEACHER CAME  
TO SEE HIM.

WE'LL TRY  
AGAIN/  
MY LORD!

ALL RIGHT! TAKE  
THE BOY BACK  
AND SEE WHAT  
YOU CAN DO.





THIS TIME THE TEACHER TRIED TO GET PRAHLAD INTERESTED IN THE MEANS FOR ACQUIRING WEALTH AND PHYSICAL PLEASURES, BUT...

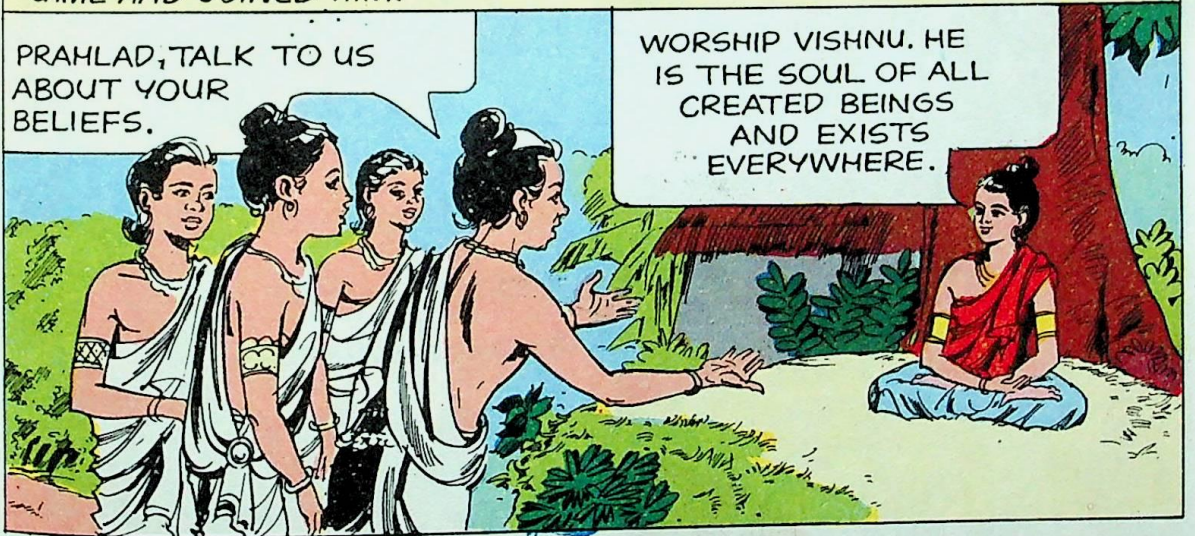
HOW CAN THE PURSUIT OF PHYSICAL PLEASURES AND WEALTH BRING HAPPINESS? IT WILL ONLY LEAD TO ENVY AND ANGER.



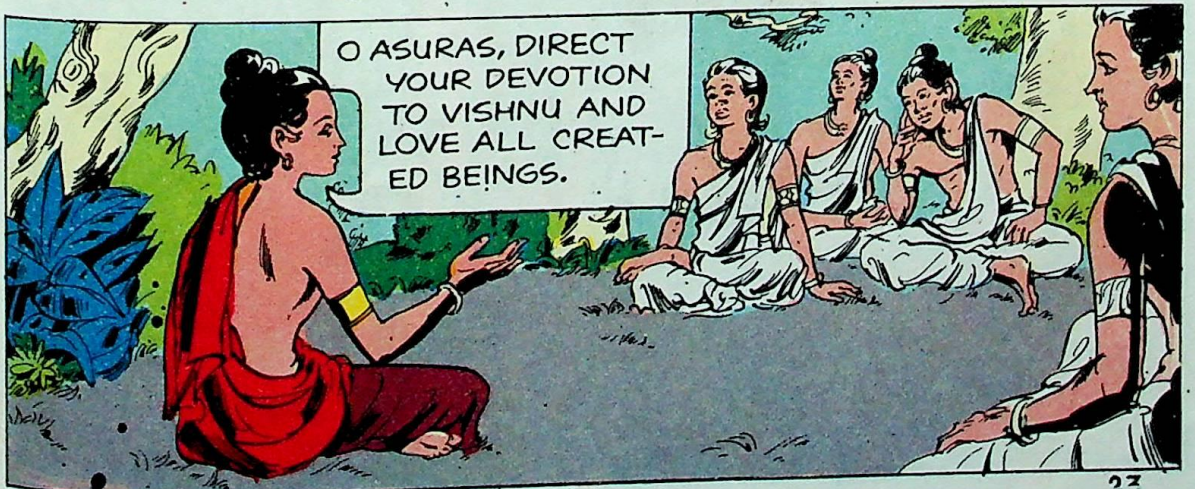
WHILE PRAHLAD WAS ENGAGED IN SUCH THOUGHTS, OTHER PUPILS CAME AND JOINED HIM.

PRAHLAD, TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR BELIEFS.

WORSHIP VISHNU. HE IS THE SOUL OF ALL CREATED BEINGS AND EXISTS EVERYWHERE.



O ASURAS, DIRECT YOUR DEVOTION TO VISHNU AND LOVE ALL CREATED BEINGS.





TELL US,  
PRAHLAD,  
WHERE  
DID YOU  
LEARN  
ALL  
THIS?

FROM  
THE  
SAGE  
NARADA.

THE ASURA LADS LISTENED TO  
PRAHLAD AND ACCEPTED ALL  
HIS TEACHINGS.

WHAT OUR GURU  
HAS TAUGHT US  
IS NOT  
TRUE.

VISHNU IS  
THE SOUL...

AND PRAHLAD TOLD  
THEM THE STORY  
OF HIS BIRTH.

AT THAT MOMENT THE TEACHER  
CAME OUT.

WHAT?  
WHAT ARE YOU  
SAYING?

THAT VISHNU IS  
THE SOUL OF ALL  
CREATED  
BEINGS AND IS  
PRESENT  
EVERYWHERE.

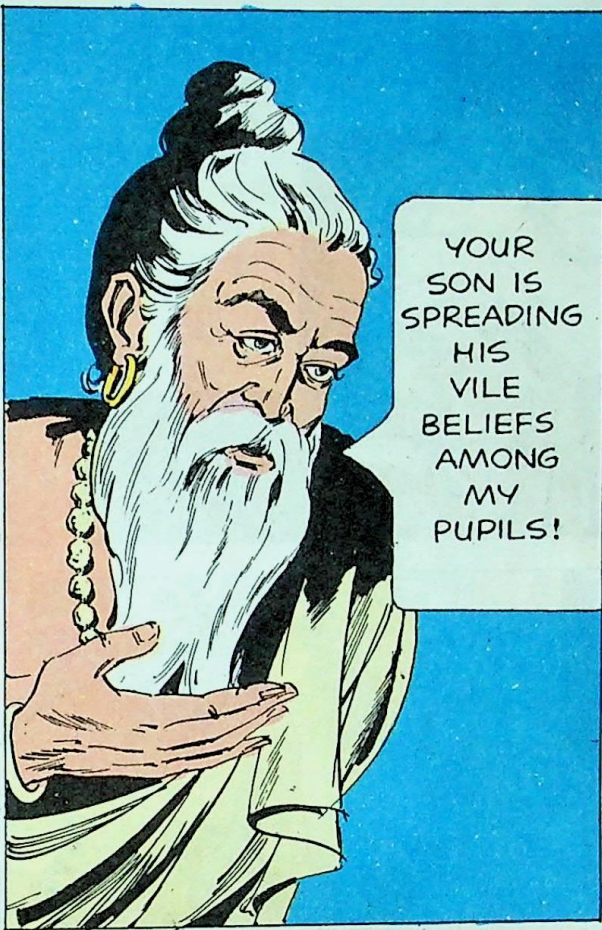


THE TEACHER WENT STRAIGHT  
TO HIRANYAKASHIPU.

O LORD,  
WE MUST DO  
SOMETHING  
BEFORE ANY  
MORE  
HARM IS  
DONE.



YOUR  
SON IS  
SPREADING  
HIS  
VILE  
BELIEFS  
AMONG  
MY  
PUPILS!



HIRANYAKASHIPU SENT FOR PRAHLAD.

YOU WICKED WRETCH!  
ARE YOU TRYING TO  
DESTROY ME  
AND MY RACE?



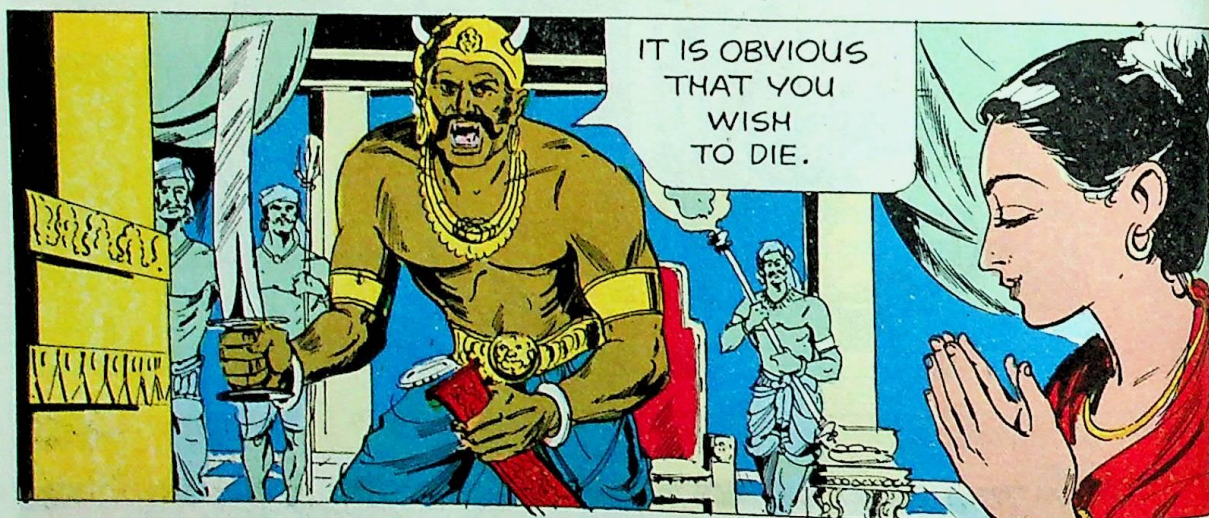




THE RULERS OF  
THE THREE WORLDS  
QUAKE  
BEFORE ME.  
BUT SPEAK  
UP, WHAT  
IS THE  
SOURCE OF  
YOUR  
POWER?



O FATHER!  
IT IS LORD  
VISHNU. HE IS  
THE SOURCE  
NOT ONLY OF MY  
POWER, BUT OF  
YOURS TOO AND  
OF ALL OTHER  
POWERFUL  
BEINGS!



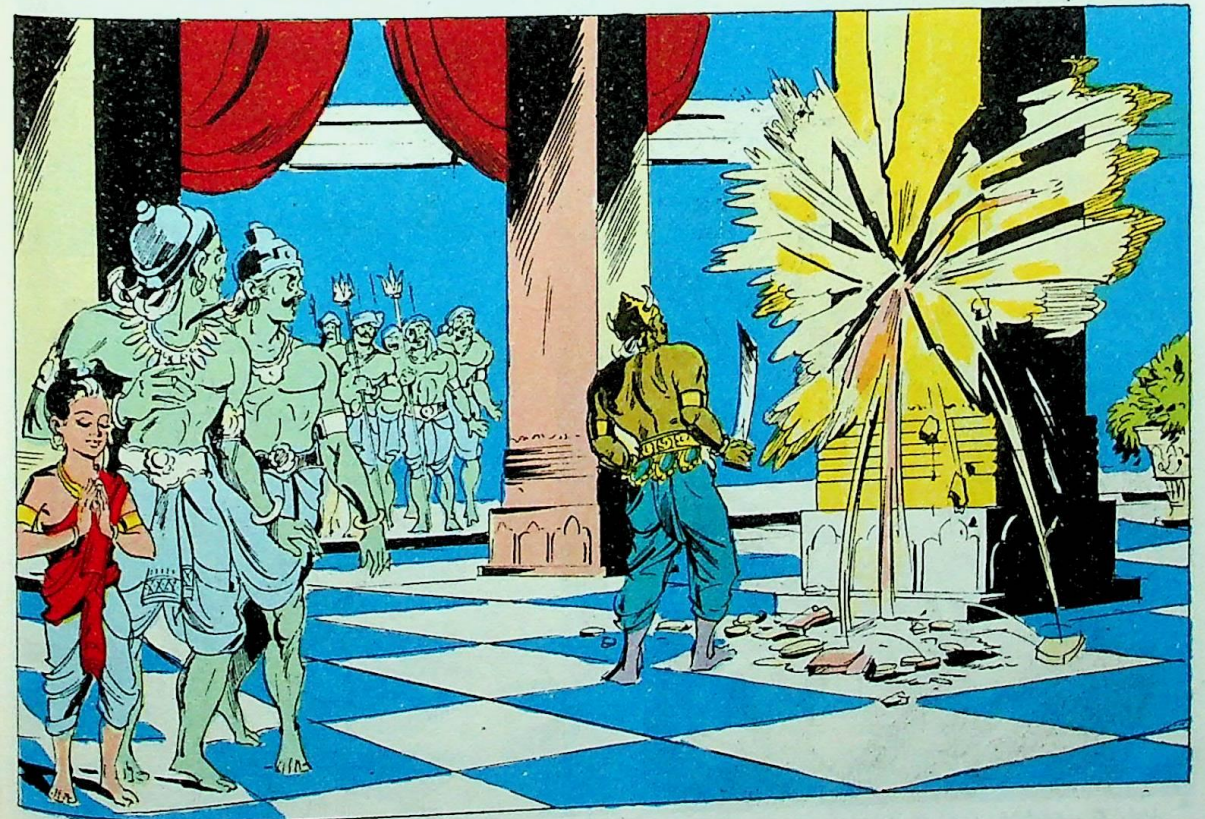
IT IS OBVIOUS  
THAT YOU  
WISH  
TO DIE.

WHERE IS HE? IF HE IS  
EVERYWHERE WHY IS HE  
NOT IN THIS PILLAR?





IF HE IS NOT THERE  
I SHALL SEVER YOUR  
HEAD FROM YOUR TRUNK.  
LET VISHNU YOUR LORD,  
PROTECT...





AND LO! LORD VISHNU IN THE FORM OF \*NARA-SIMHA EMERGED FROM THE PILLAR.

THIS IS  
NEITHER  
BEAST NOR MAN!  
WHAT IS THIS?  
IT ADVANCES  
TOWARDS ME...



NARA-SIMHA CAUGHT HIRANYA-KASHIPU AND...

IT IS THE  
TWILIGHT  
HOUR.  
I AM  
DOOMED.



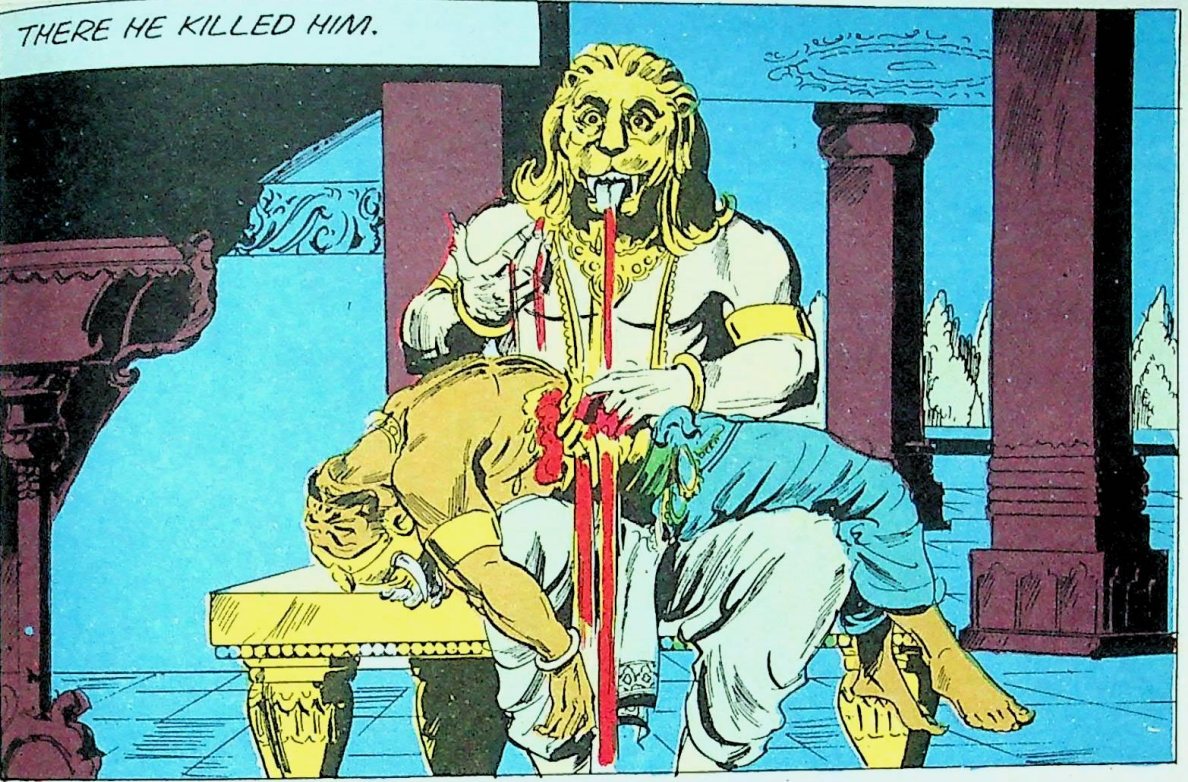
...CARRIED HIM TO THE THRESHOLD  
OF THE COURTROOM.

ALAS WE  
ARE NEITHER  
INDOORS NOR  
OUTDOORS.

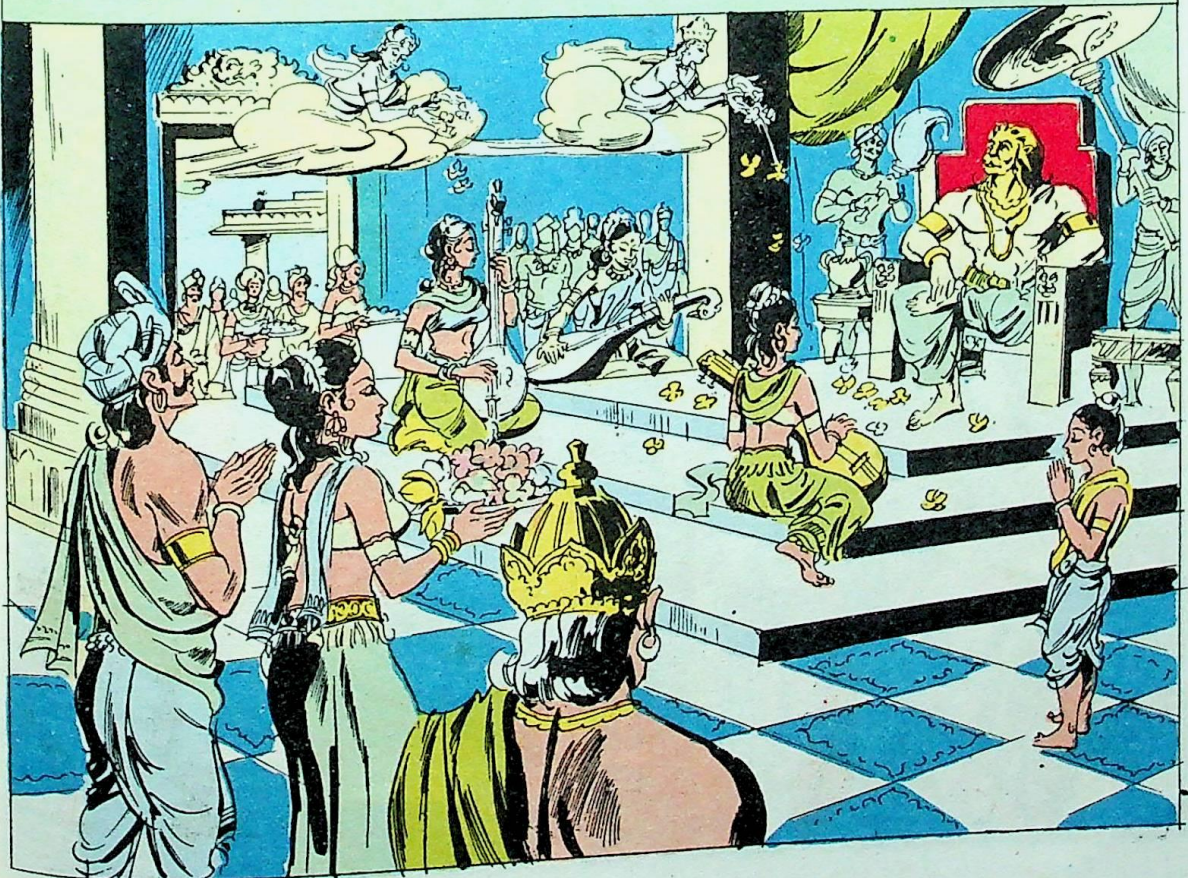




THERE HE KILLED HIM.



THEN NARA-SIMHA SEATED HIMSELF ON HIRANYAKASHIPU'S THRONE.

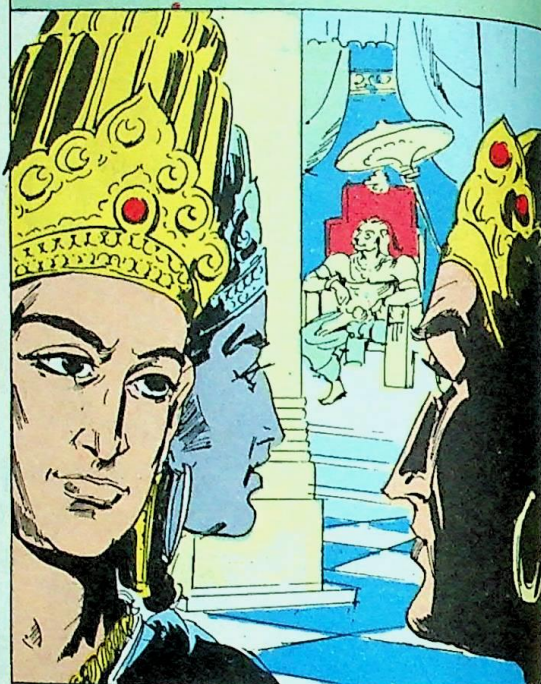




BRAHMA AND INDRA CAME TO PAY  
HOMAGE TO HIM.



BUT WERE WARY OF APPROACH-  
ING VISHNU IN THIS TERRIFYING  
ASPECT.



THEN BRAHMA WENT TO PRAHLAD  
WHO WAS STANDING  
NEARBY.

O SON APPROACH  
AND  
PROPITIATE  
THE  
LORD!



SO  
BE IT.





NARA-SIMHA WAS TOUCHED.

O GREAT  
PRAHLAD! I AM  
PLEASED WITH  
YOU! ASK  
ME ANY BOON  
OF YOUR CHOICE.

I HAVE ALL  
I DESIRE.  
YOU HAVE  
ALLOWED ME  
TO TAKE  
REFUGE IN  
YOU.



BUT NARA-SIMHA INSISTED.

YET I WISH  
TO GRANT YOU  
A BOON.

THEN LET MY  
FATHER BE  
PURIFIED OF ALL  
HIS SINS.

BEING YOUR FATHER,  
HE IS ALREADY PURI-  
FIED. REIGN IN HIS  
PLACE AND DO YOUR  
DUTIES.

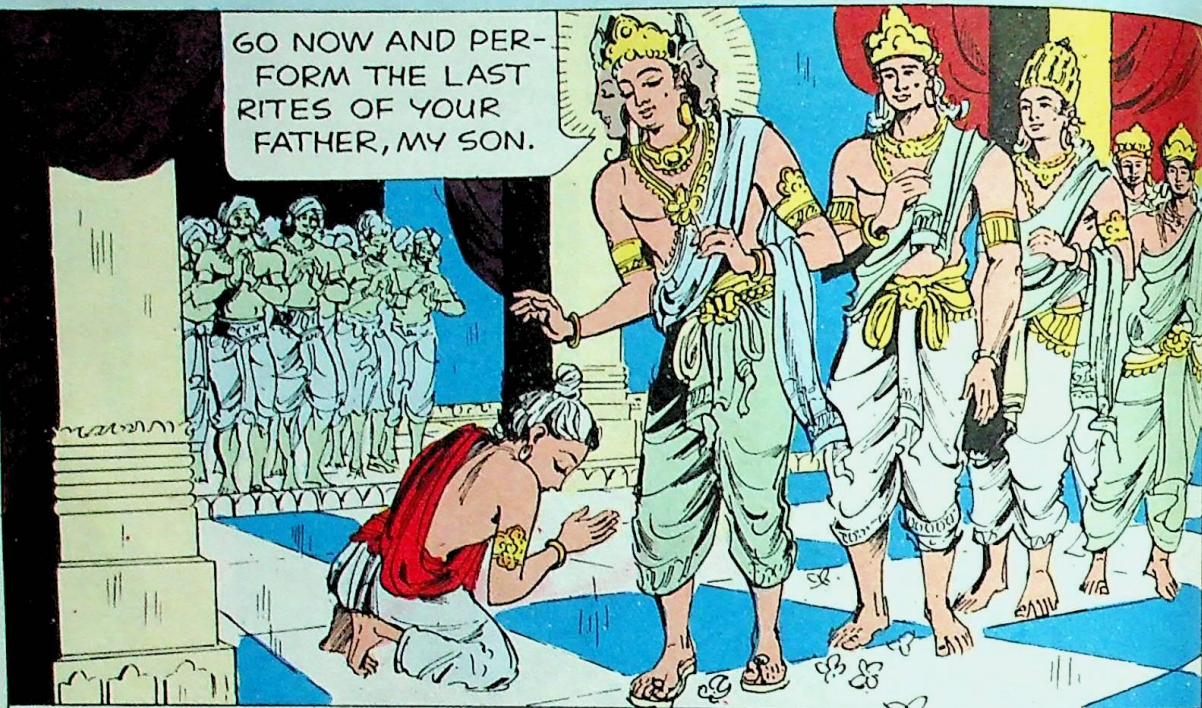
SO BE  
IT.



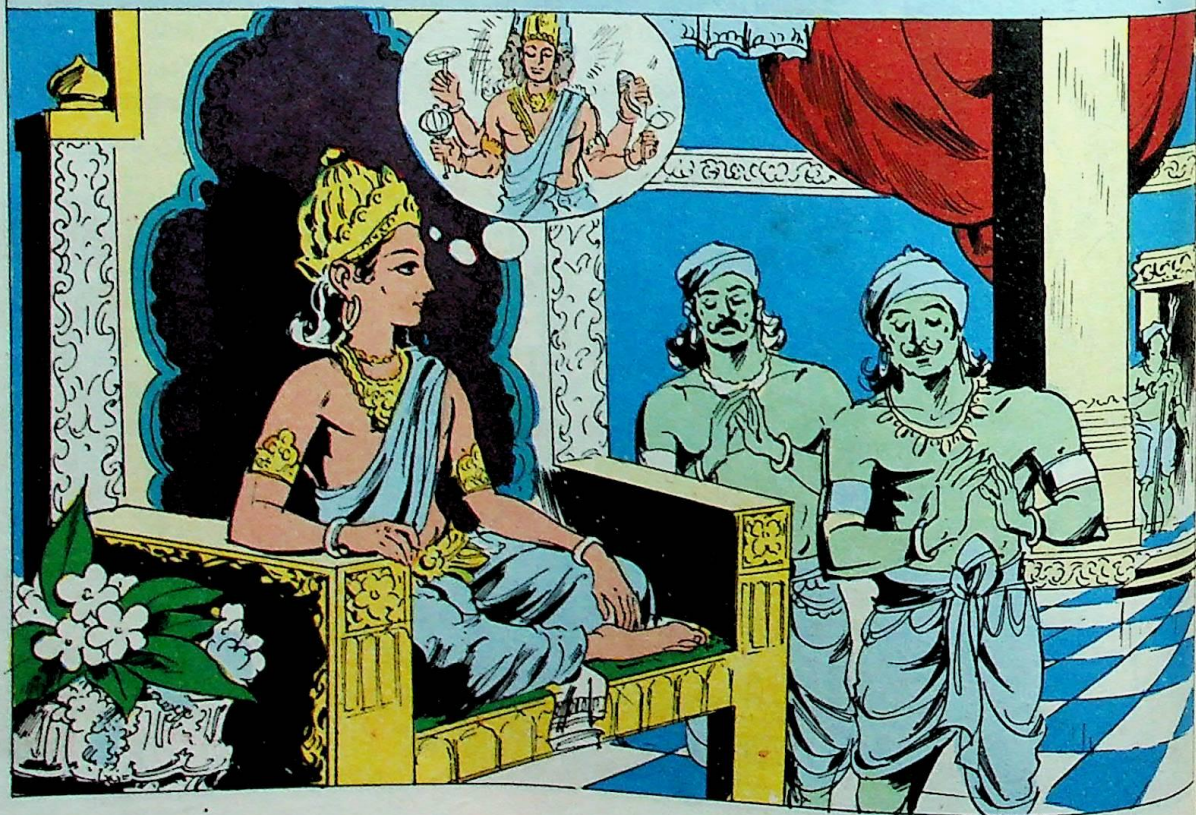


NARA-SIMHA VANISHED. AND PRAHLAD BOWED TO BRAHMA AND TO THE OTHER CELESTIALS.

GO NOW AND PERFORM THE LAST RITES OF YOUR FATHER, MY SON.

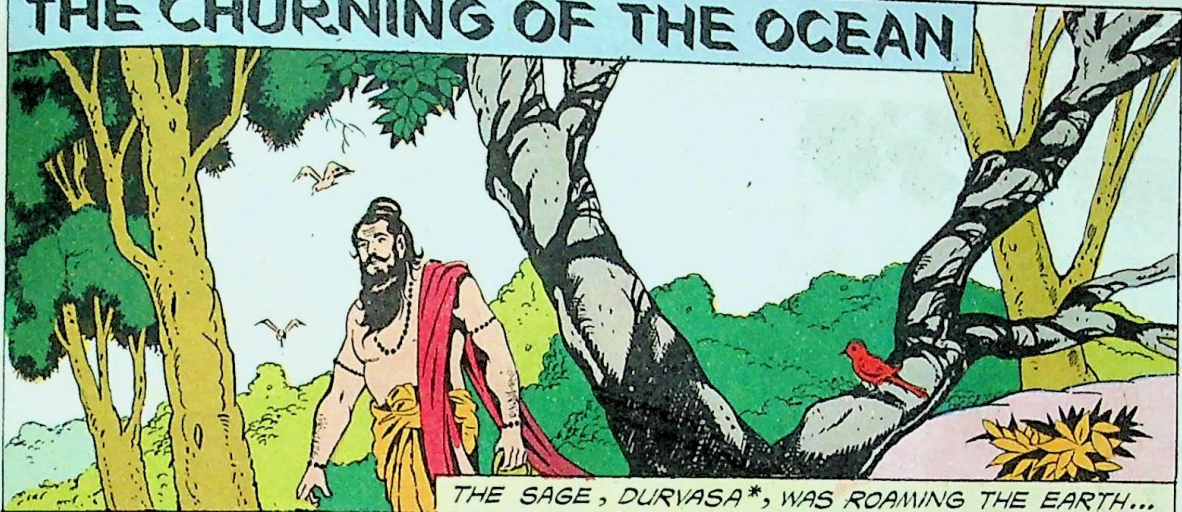


AFTER THE LAST RITES OF HIS FATHER WERE OVER, THE GODS WITH THE HELP OF THE ASURAS INSTALLED PRAHLAD ON THE THRONE AS LORD OF THE ASURAS. AND HE RULED WISELY AND WELL FOR MANY YEARS.





# THE CHURNING OF THE OCEAN

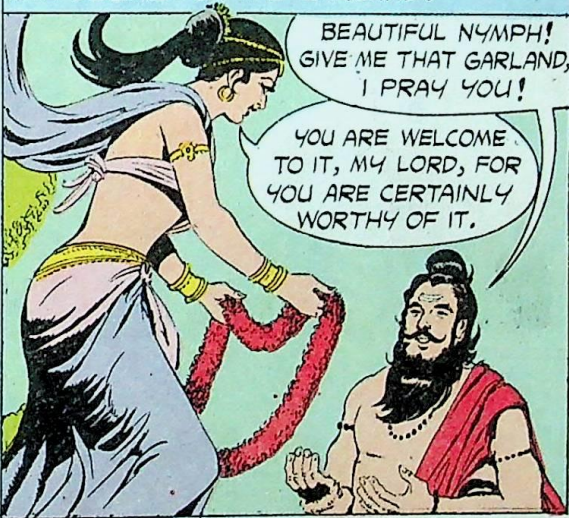


THE SAGE, DURVASA\*, WAS ROAMING THE EARTH...

...WHEN HE BEHELD, IN THE HANDS OF A FLYING NYMPH, A GARLAND OF HEAVENLY FLOWERS.



SO HEADY WAS THE PERFUME OF THOSE FLOWERS THAT THE SAGE BECAME FRANTIC WITH DESIRE FOR THE GARLAND.



THE SAGE TOOK THE GARLAND AND WALKED ON.



\* HE IS BELIEVED TO BE A PART REINCARNATION OF SHIVA



BY AND BY HE SAW INDRA, THE LORD OF THE GODS WHO RULES THE THREE WORLDS, APPROACHING.

INDRA WAS SEATED ON THE CELESTIAL ELEPHANT AIRAVATA.

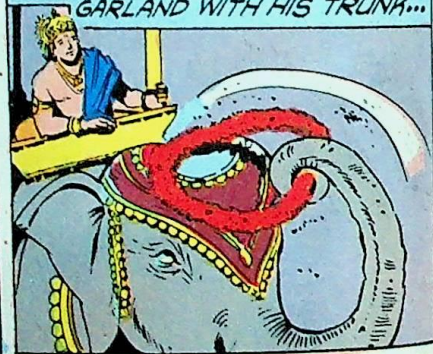
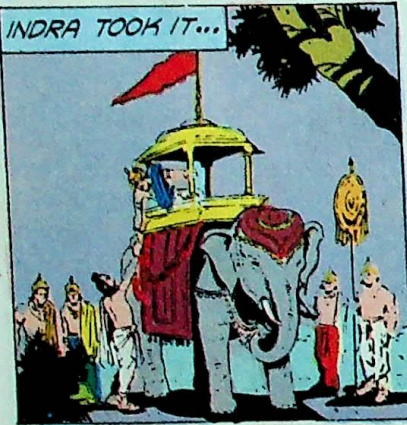
O INDRA! ACCEPT THIS GARLAND FROM WHICH, EVEN NOW, THE BEES ARE COLLECTING SWEET AMBROSIA!



INDRA TOOK IT...

...AND JOKINGLY PLACED IT ON THE BROW OF AIRAVATA.

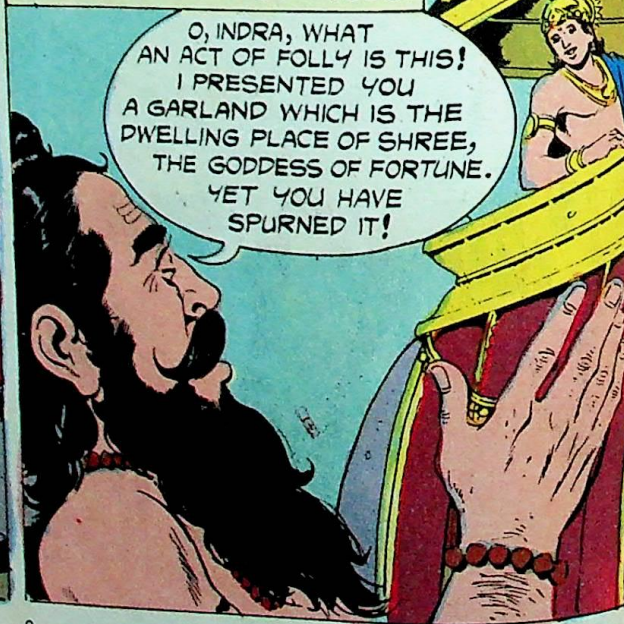
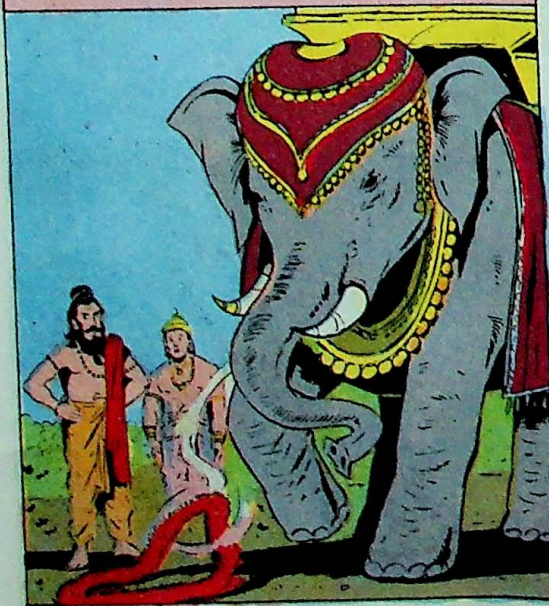
AIRAVATA, INTOXICATED BY THE FRAGRANCE TOOK HOLD OF THE GARLAND WITH HIS TRUNK...



...AND FLUNG IT TO THE GROUND.

SAGE DURVASA WAS FURIOUS.

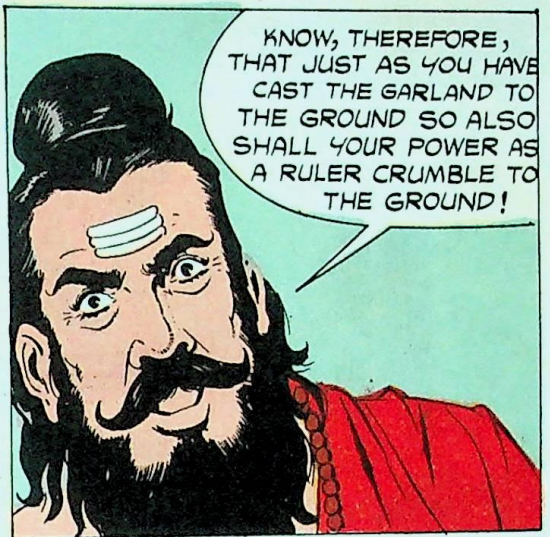
O, INDRA, WHAT AN ACT OF FOLLY IS THIS! I PRESENTED YOU A GARLAND WHICH IS THE DWELLING PLACE OF SHREE, THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE. YET YOU HAVE SPURNED IT!







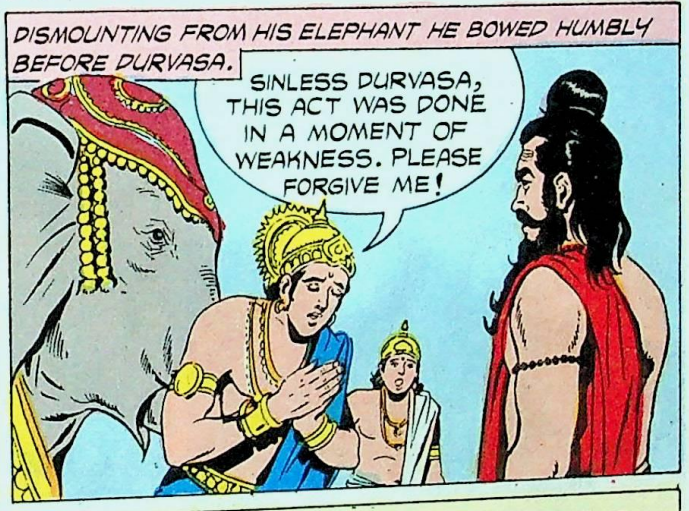
YOU IMAGINE THAT I AM JUST ANOTHER ASCETIC AND HAVE TREATED ME WITH DISRESPECT!



KNOW, THEREFORE, THAT JUST AS YOU HAVE CAST THE GARLAND TO THE GROUND SO ALSO SHALL YOUR POWER AS A RULER CRUMBLE TO THE GROUND!

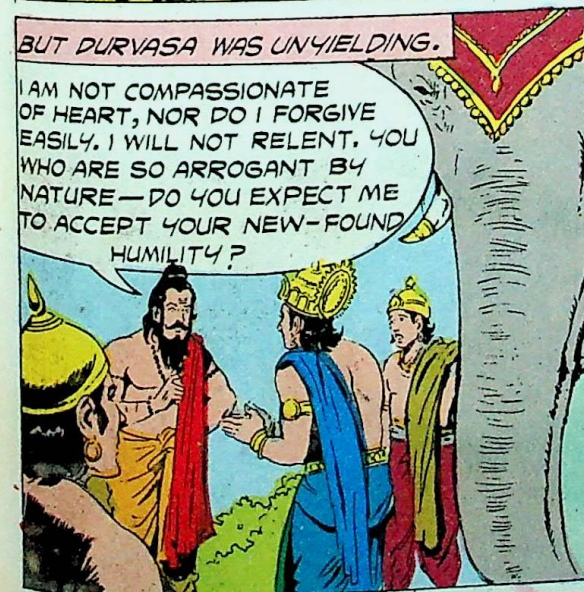


INDRA WAS APPALLED AT WHAT HE HAD DONE.



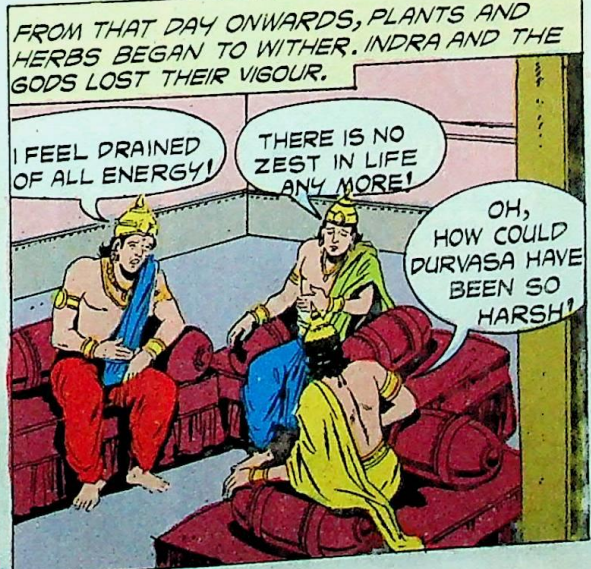
DISMOUNTING FROM HIS ELEPHANT HE BOWED HUMBLY BEFORE DURVASA.

SINLESS DURVASA, THIS ACT WAS DONE IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS. PLEASE FORGIVE ME!



BUT DURVASA WAS UNYIELDING.

I AM NOT COMPASSIONATE OF HEART, NOR DO I FORGIVE EASILY. I WILL NOT RELENT. YOU WHO ARE SO ARROGANT BY NATURE—DO YOU EXPECT ME TO ACCEPT YOUR NEW-FOUND HUMILITY?



FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, PLANTS AND HERBS BEGAN TO WITHER. INDRA AND THE GODS LOST THEIR VIGOUR.

I FEEL DRAINED OF ALL ENERGY!

THERE IS NO ZEST IN LIFE ANY MORE!

OH, HOW COULD DURVASA HAVE BEEN SO HARSH!



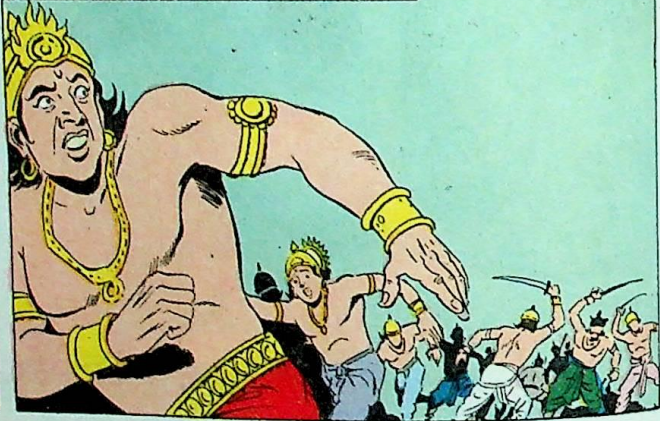
IN THIS SITUATION, IT WAS THE ASURAS, THE ENEMIES OF THE DEVAS, WHO BENEFITED. THEY TAUNTED THE DEVAS.

YOU PROUD AND ARROGANT DEVAS! COME, FIGHT WITH US!



THE DEVAS WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, THOUGH THEY WERE UNWILLING.

GREAT NUMBERS OF DEVAS WERE FELLED AND COULD NOT RISE AGAIN. THE REST, HEADED BY AGNI, THE GOD OF FIRE, FLED.

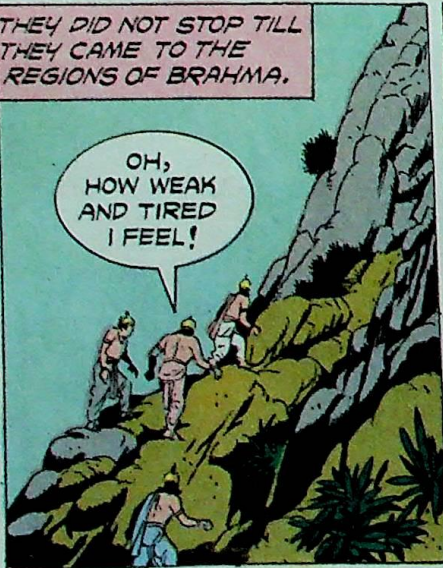


THEY DID NOT STOP TILL THEY CAME TO THE REGIONS OF BRAHMA.

BRAHMA'S COURT WAS ON THE CREST OF THE SHINING MOUNT MERU. IT WAS FULL OF GRACEFUL TREES, FRAGRANT FLOWERS AND COOL STREAMS. BUT THE DEVAS WERE NOT SOOTHED EVEN BY THE SOFT BREEZE.

OH, HOW WEAK AND TIRED I FEEL!

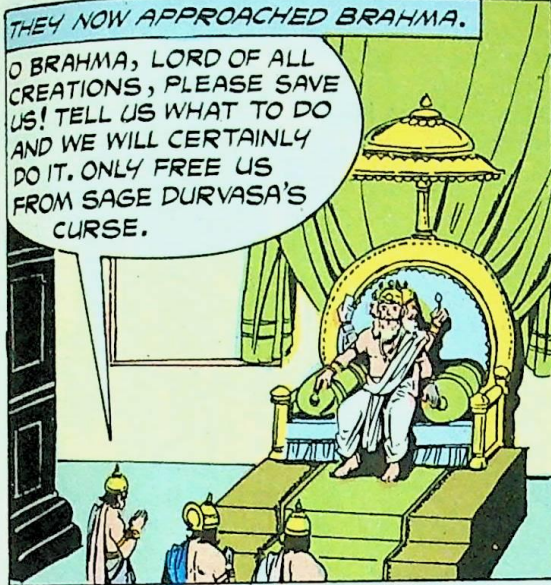
NOTHING INTERESTS ME ANY MORE, NOT EVEN THE MELODIOUS SINGING OF THE BIRDS!





THEY NOW APPROACHED BRAHMA.

O BRAHMA, LORD OF ALL CREATIONS, PLEASE SAVE US! TELL US WHAT TO DO AND WE WILL CERTAINLY DO IT. ONLY FREE US FROM SAGE DURVASA'S CURSE.



BRAHMA WAS MOVED BY THEIR SAD PLIGHT. HE MEDITATED FOR A WHILE...

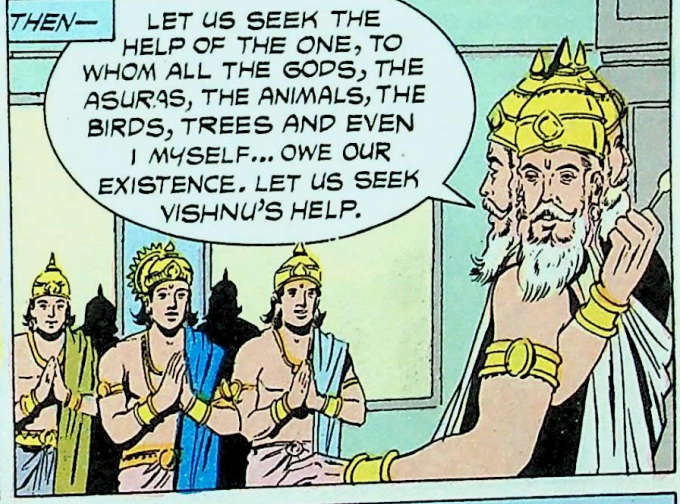


...AND REMEMBERED THE OMNIPOTENT VISHNU.



THEN—

LET US SEEK THE HELP OF THE ONE, TO WHOM ALL THE GODS, THE ASURAS, THE ANIMALS, THE BIRDS, TREES AND EVEN I MYSELF... OWE OUR EXISTENCE. LET US SEEK VISHNU'S HELP.



COME, I WILL TAKE YOU TO HIM MYSELF.

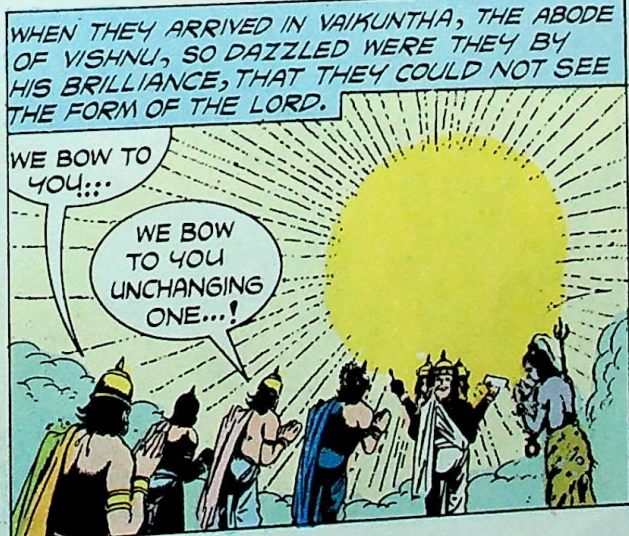
WHEN BRAHMA HIMSELF LEADS US, HOW CAN WE FAIL!



WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN VAIKUNTHA, THE ABODE OF VISHNU, SO DAZZLED WERE THEY BY HIS BRILLIANCE, THAT THEY COULD NOT SEE THE FORM OF THE LORD.

WE BOW TO YOU...

WE BOW TO YOU UNCHANGING ONE...!





THE DEVAS WORSHIPPED VISHNU.

O THOU FOREMOST OF THE PURUSHAS!

OH, THOU ALL-KNOWING ONE!

FINALLY THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE HIM. HE WAS AS LUSTROUS AS A THOUSAND SUNS.

O, ALL-KNOWING BEING, SINCE NOTHING REMAINS HIDDEN FROM YOU, NEITHER PAST NOR PRESENT, YOU KNOW OF OUR PLIGHT.

HELP US THEREFORE AND GIVE US VICTORY AGAINST THE ASURAS.

LORD VISHNU WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE, THEN —

LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY AND ALL WILL BE WELL WITH YOU.

YOUR ENEMIES HAVE OBTAINED VICTORY OVER YOU. SO, FOR THE MOMENT, YOU MUST MAKE PEACE WITH THEM.

HOW CAN WE DO THAT? THEY TAKE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF US AT EVERY TURN.



IT IS BETTER TO MAKE PEACE WITH ENEMIES, EVEN AS A SERPENT WILL MAKE FRIENDS WITH A MOUSE, IF NECESSARY.



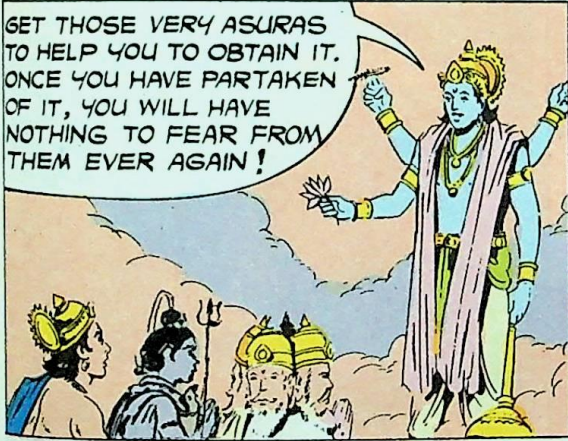
BUT, LORD, WE ARE AFRAID TO GO NEAR THEM!



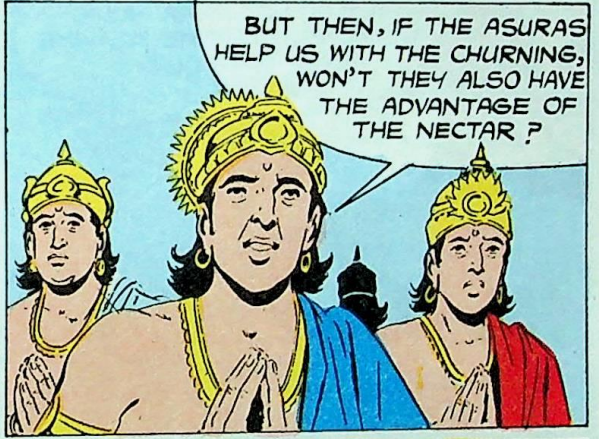
THAT IS WHY I SAY YOU MUST FIRST MAKE PEACE WITH THEM. THEN YOU MUST ENDEAVOUR TO CHURN UP THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY FROM THE OCEAN.



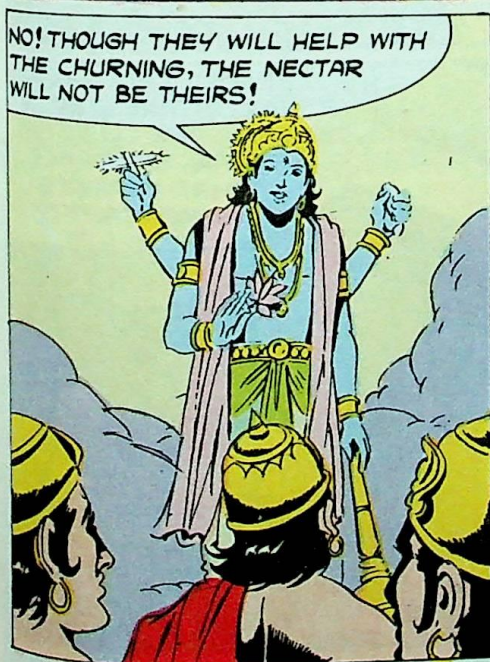
GET THOSE VERY ASURAS TO HELP YOU TO OBTAIN IT. ONCE YOU HAVE PARTAKEN OF IT, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM EVER AGAIN!



BUT THEN, IF THE ASURAS HELP US WITH THE CHURNING, WON'T THEY ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF THE NECTAR?



NO! THOUGH THEY WILL HELP WITH THE CHURNING, THE NECTAR WILL NOT BE THEIRS!



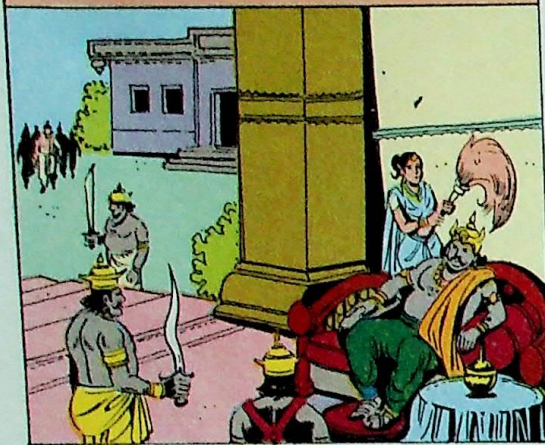
THE DEVAS WERE PLEASED WITH VISHNU'S ADVICE. THEY BOWED IN REVERENCE TO HIM.



WE WILL INVITE THE ASURAS TO JOIN US IN CHURNING THE OCEAN.



THE DEVAS WENT TO BALI, THE KING OF THE ASURAS. HE WAS RESTING AFTER HAVING CONQUERED THE THREE WORLDS.

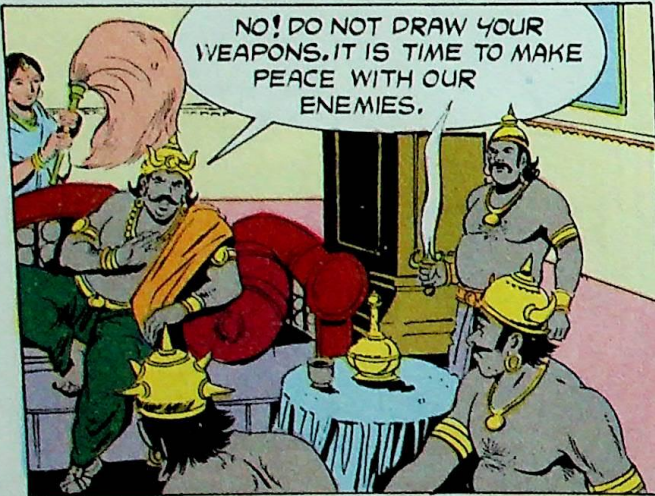


LOOK AT THOSE WEAKLINGS, BEREFT OF ARMOUR AND WEAPONS!

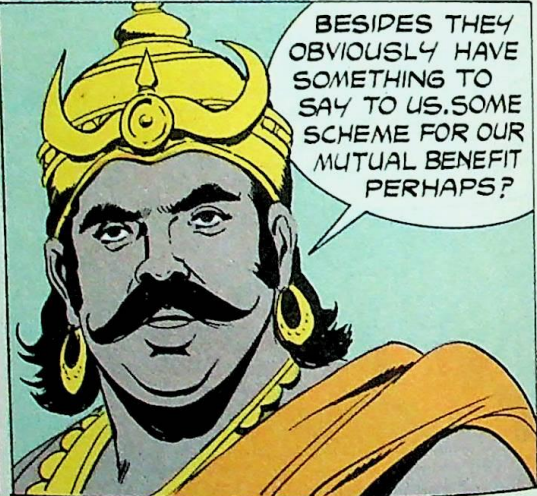
LET'S STRIKE THEM DOWN!



NO! DO NOT DRAW YOUR WEAPONS. IT IS TIME TO MAKE PEACE WITH OUR ENEMIES.



BESIDES THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO US. SOME SCHEME FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT PERHAPS?



SPEAK! WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE, AT GREAT RISK TO YOURSELVES? HAVE YOU SOME PROPOSALS TO MAKE?

WE HAVE, O WISE AND ILLUSTRIOUS KING!

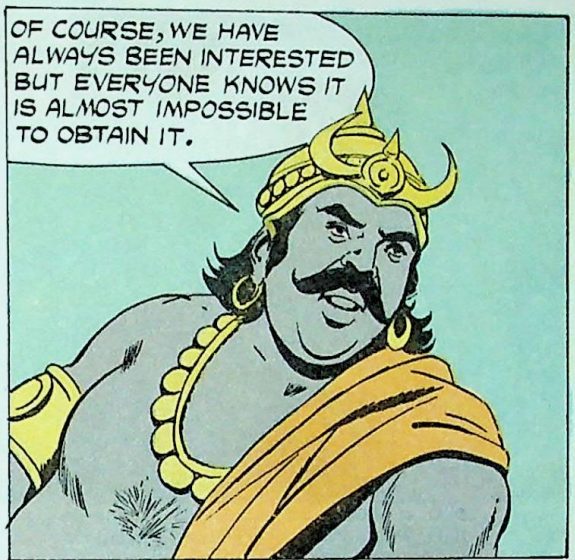
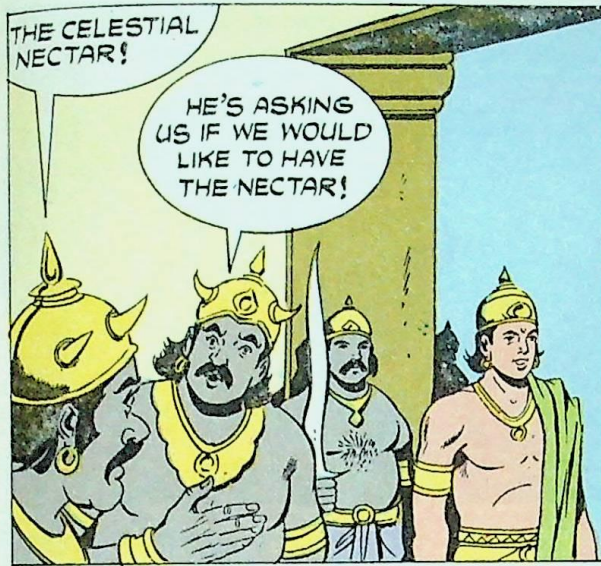


WELL, GO ON THEN.

FIRST TELL US— ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE CELESTIAL NECTAR, THE DRINK THAT IMPARTS IMMORTALITY?









THEY WENT TOGETHER TO  
THE OCEAN OF MILK...

...AND THEY CAST ALL SORTS OF  
MEDICINAL HERBS INTO IT.

WE ARE READY, BUT THE OCEAN  
IS LIKE A MIGHTY CHURNING POT.  
WHAT SHALL WE CHURN  
IT WITH?

ONLY A MOUNTAIN WOULD  
DO AS A CHURNING  
ROD!

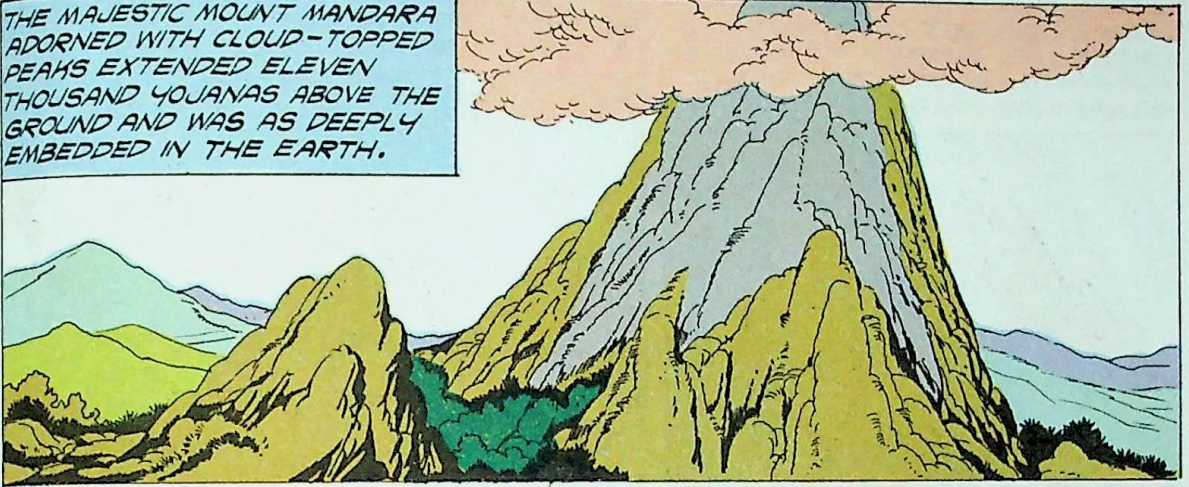
LORD VISHNU  
TOLD US TO UPROOT  
MOUNT MANDARA FOR  
THIS PURPOSE.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

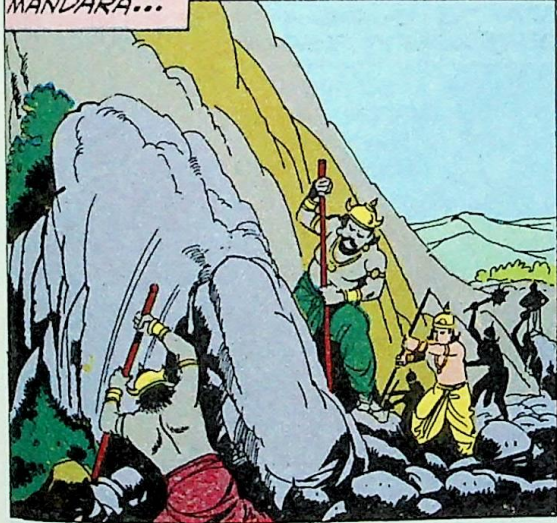
LET'S TRY  
AND UPROOT  
MOUNT MANDARA  
AND USE IT AS  
A CHURNING  
ROD.



THE MAJESTIC MOUNT MANDARA ADORNED WITH CLOUD-TOPPED PEAKS EXTENDED ELEVEN THOUSAND YOJANAS ABOVE THE GROUND AND WAS AS DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN THE EARTH.



INDRA AND THE DEVAS ALONG WITH BALI AND THE ASURAS UPROOTED MOUNT MANDARA...



...AND BEGAN TO CARRY IT TOWARDS THE OCEAN. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE VERY STRONG, THEY PANTED AND GASPED UNDER ITS WEIGHT.



IT'S SO HEAVY!

OH! WHY DID WE EVER EMBARK ON THIS PROJECT?

ON AND ON THEY WENT, OVER A GREAT DISTANCE.

OH! I AM EXHAUSTED! I CANNOT GO ANY FARTHER.



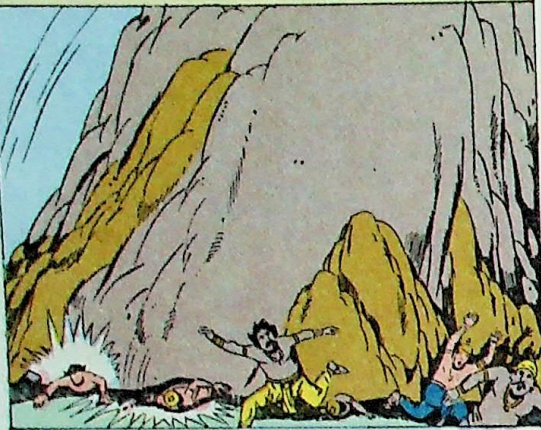
NOR... I!

OR I!



IN THE END, UNABLE TO HOLD OUT ANY LONGER, THEY DROPPED THE MOUNTAIN AND A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVAS AND ASURAS WERE CRUSHED UNDER IT.

THE CRIES OF THE ASURAS AND DEVAS INTERMINGLED.



HELP!

HELP!

WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

WE ARE NOWHERE NEAR COMPLETION OF OUR TASK!

BOTH THE ASURAS AND THE DEVAS WERE IN DESPAIR.

SO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN CRUSHED AND INJURED!

BUT LORD VISHNU, WHO SAW ALL THIS, ARRIVED ON HIS VEHICLE, GARUDA.

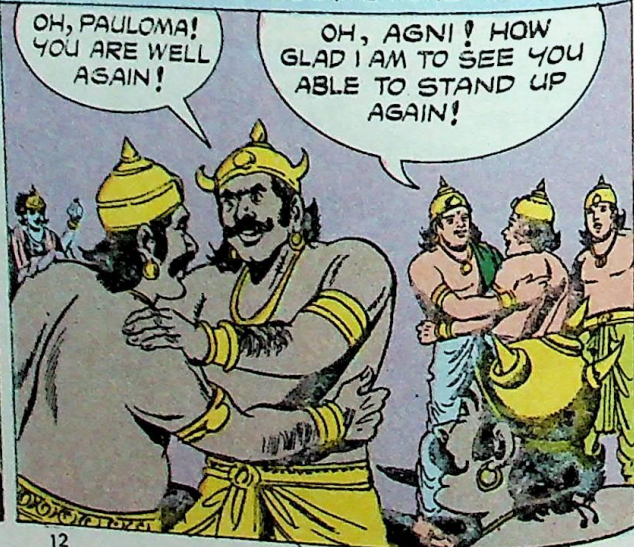
HIS HEALING GLANCE FELL ON THEM, AND THE INJURED DEVAS AND ASURAS WERE REVIVED.

IT'S LORD VISHNU!

LORD VISHNU!

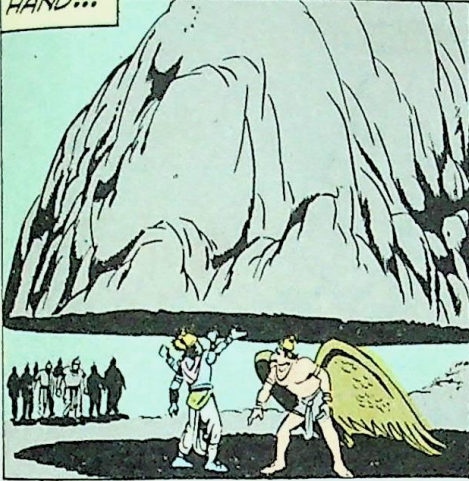
OH, PAULOMA! YOU ARE WELL AGAIN!

OH, AGNI! HOW GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU ABLE TO STAND UP AGAIN!





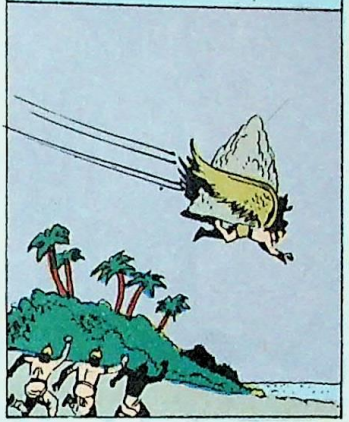
THEN LORD VISHNU EFFORTLESSLY  
RAISED THE MOUNTAIN WITH ONE  
HAND...



...AND PLACED IT ON THE  
BACK OF GARUDA.



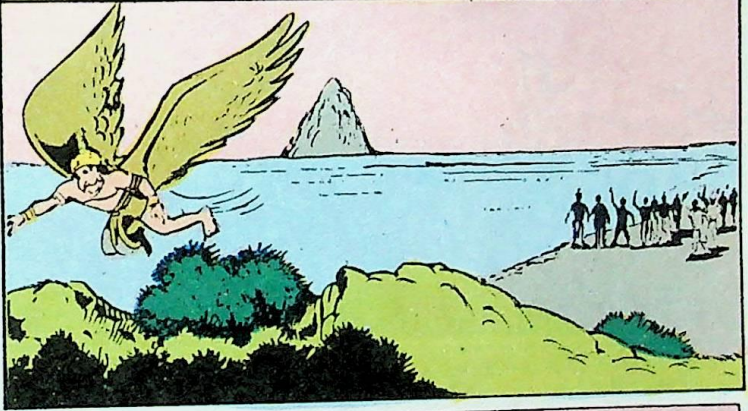
VISHNU HIMSELF THEN  
MOUNTED GARUDA AND  
PROCEEDED TOWARDS  
THE OCEAN OF MILK.



ON REACHING THERE, GARUDA  
GENTLY PLACED THE MOUNTAIN  
IN THE OCEAN...



...AND THEN FLEW AWAY.  
LORD VISHNU REMAINED BEHIND.



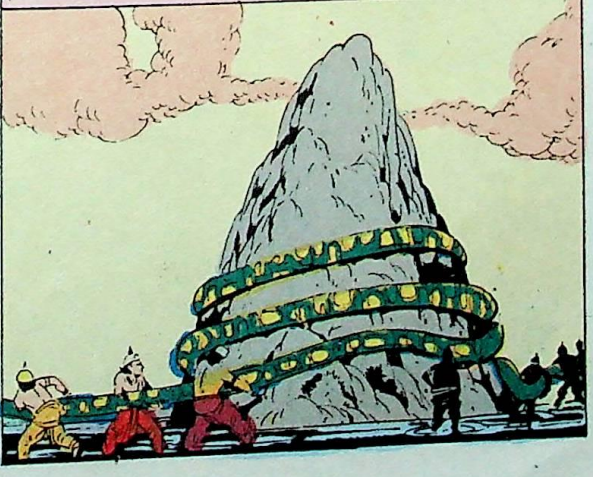
THEN THE DEVAS AND ASURAS WENT TO  
VASUKI, THE KING OF THE SNAKES.

O, VASUKI, COME  
HELP US TO CHURN  
THE MIGHTY OCEAN  
AND YOU SHALL  
ALSO PARTAKE OF  
THE NECTAR.

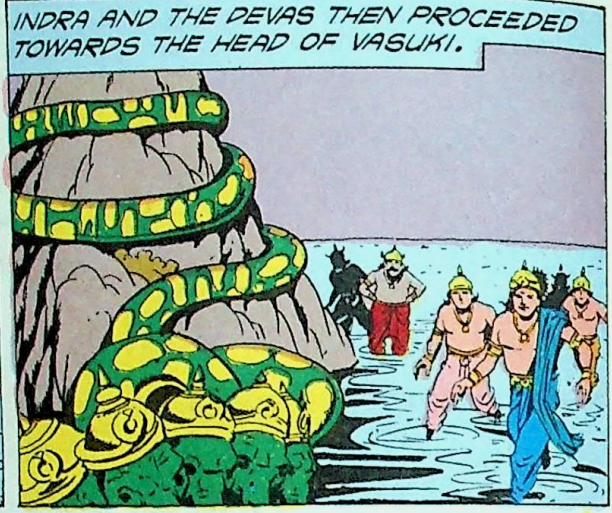
CERTAINLY! I WILL  
COME AND ACT AS  
A CHURNING  
ROPE.



SO VASUKI WENT WITH THEM AND ALLOWED  
THEM TO BIND HIM ROUND MOUNT MANDARA.







INDRA WAS JUST GOING TO GRASP VASUKI'S  
HEAD TO BEGIN THE CHURNING WHEN—



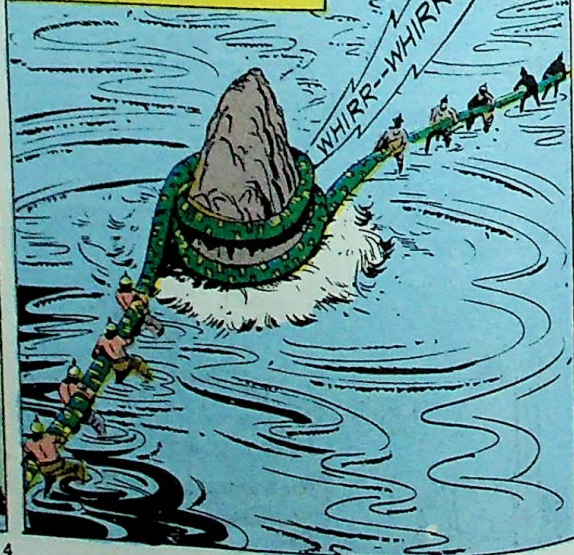
INDRA HID A SMILE AND QUIETLY WENT WITH  
THE DEVAS TO HOLD VASUKI'S TAIL INSTEAD.



WHEN BOTH THE GROUPS HAD TAKEN THEIR  
PLACES, THE ASURAS AT THE HEAD AND THE  
DEVAS AT THE TAIL OF VASUKI...



...THE CHURNING BEGAN.





BUT ALAS! THERE WAS NO SUPPORT UNDER MOUNT MANDARA AND BECAUSE OF ITS IMMENSE WEIGHT, IT GRADUALLY SLIPPED DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

THE MOUNTAIN WON'T TURN!

THE MOUNTAIN IS SLIPPING FROM OUR GRASP!

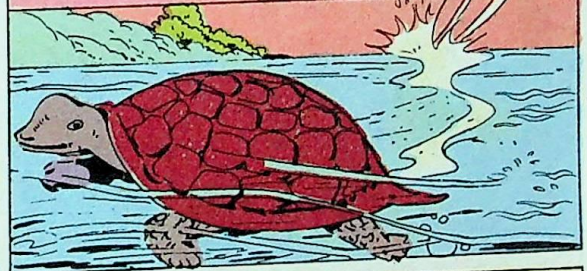
NO! IT IS SLIPPING DOWN DEEPER AND DEEPER.



HELP!  
HELP!

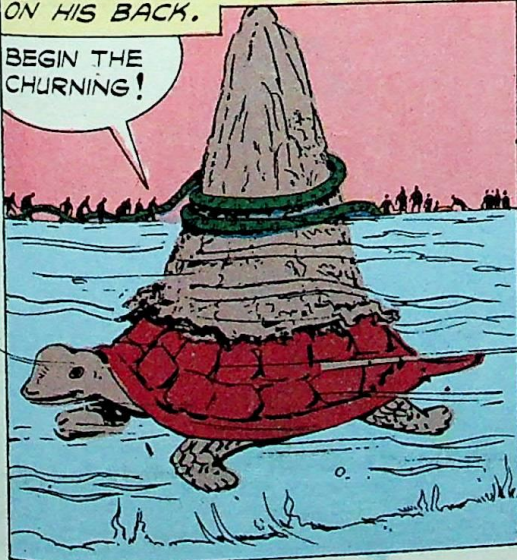


ONCE AGAIN VISHNU CAME TO THEIR AID, ASSUMING THE FORM OF A GIGANTIC TORTOISE, ALMOST LIKE A HUGE ISLAND, VISHNU DIVED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN...

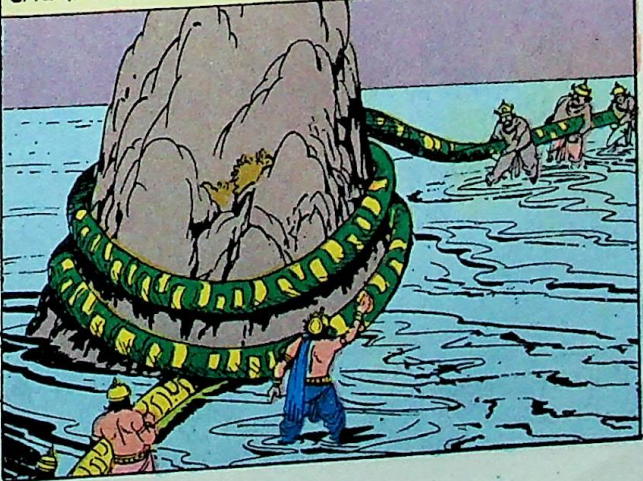


...AND HELD MOUNT MANDARA UP ON HIS BACK.

BEGIN THE CHURNING!



THROUGH THE GRACE OF LORD VISHNU, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS AND VASUKI FELT A RENEWED STRENGTH WITHIN THEM AND THEY CHURNED FASTER AND FASTER.





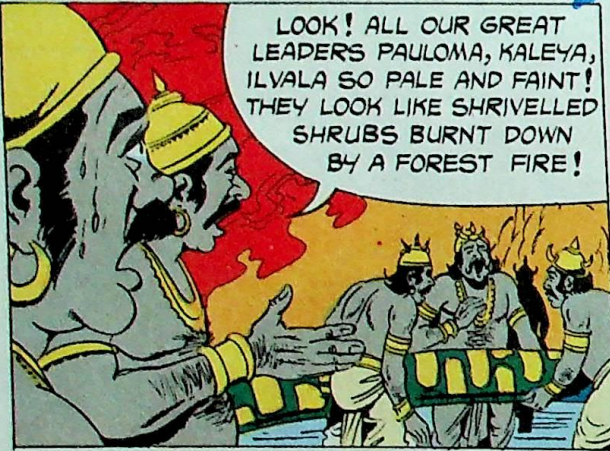
THEN FIRE AND SMOKE ISSUED FROM THE THOUSAND MOUTHS OF VASUKI.



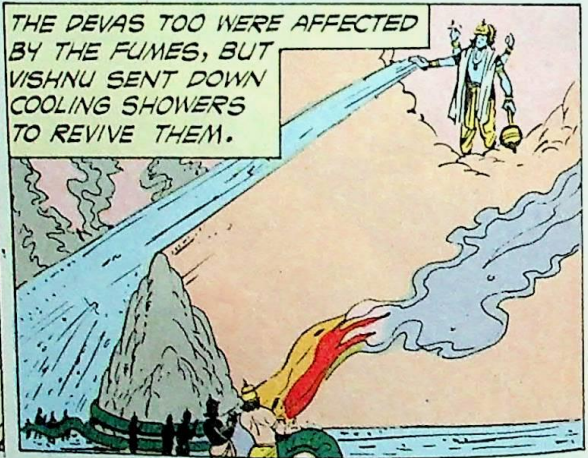
THESE FIERY PUFFS OF SMOKE ENGULFED THE ASURAS WHO WERE NEAR THE HOODS OF THE SNAKE.



LOOK! ALL OUR GREAT LEADERS PAULOMA, KALEYA, ILVALA SO PALE AND FAINT! THEY LOOK LIKE SHRIVELLED SHRUBS BURNT DOWN BY A FOREST FIRE!



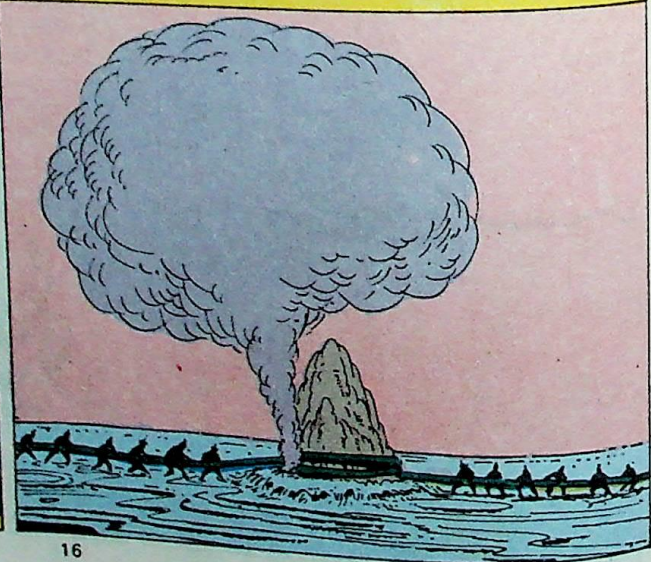
THE DEVAS TOO WERE AFFECTED BY THE FUMES, BUT VISHNU SENT DOWN COOLING SHOWERS TO REVIVE THEM.



STILL THE DEVAS AND ASURAS CONTINUED THEIR TASK AND AS THEY CHURNED, A WHOLE HOST OF FISHES, SNAKES, WHALES WERE CHURNED UP TOO.



THEN THERE AROSE A FEARFUL POISON. IT SPREAD LIKE A THICK PALL OVER THE EARTH.





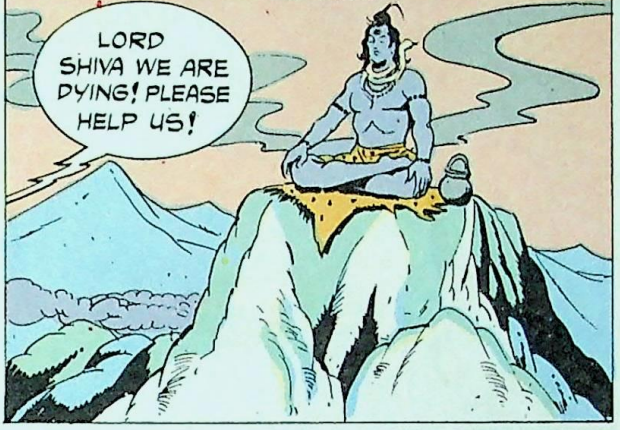
THIS IS THE TERRIBLE POISON, HALAHALA!

IT WILL SOON COVER THE WORLD AND KILL ALL ITS CREATURES!

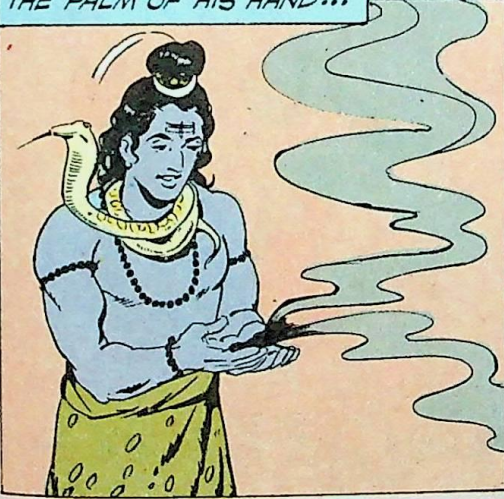


THIS TIME THEY SENT UP A CRY TO LORD SHIVA —

LORD SHIVA WE ARE DYING! PLEASE HELP US!



INSTANTLY SHIVA HEEDED THEIR CALL, GATHERING UP ALL THE POISON IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND...



...HE SWALLOWED IT AND HELD IT IN HIS THROAT.

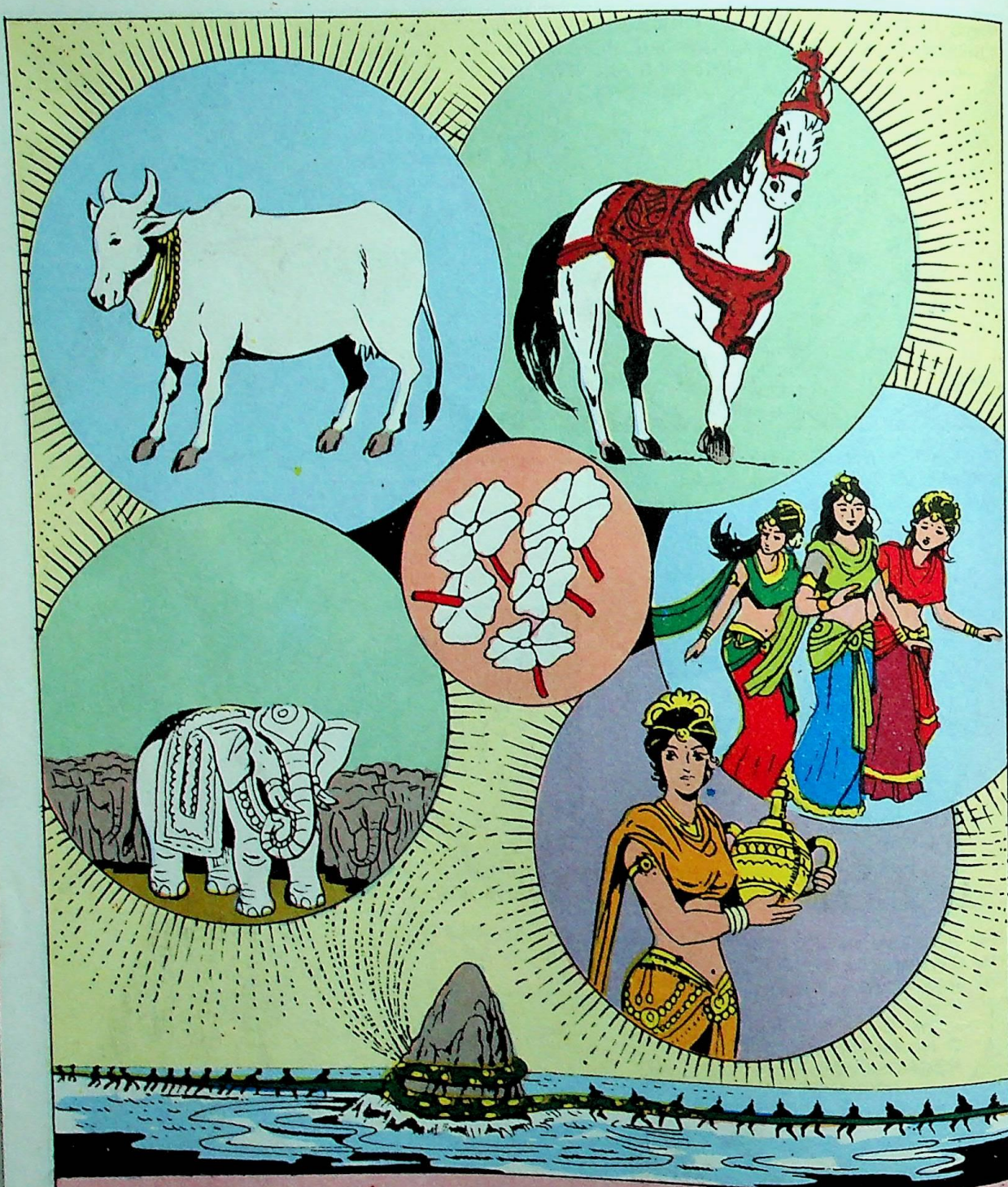


THE POISON MADE HIS THROAT BLUE AND BECAME AN ORNAMENT OF SHIVA. FROM THAT TIME ON HE HAS BEEN KNOWN AS NILAKANTHA.

WE SALUTE YOU, O NILAKANTHA, FOR RESPONDING TO OUR PRAYER!







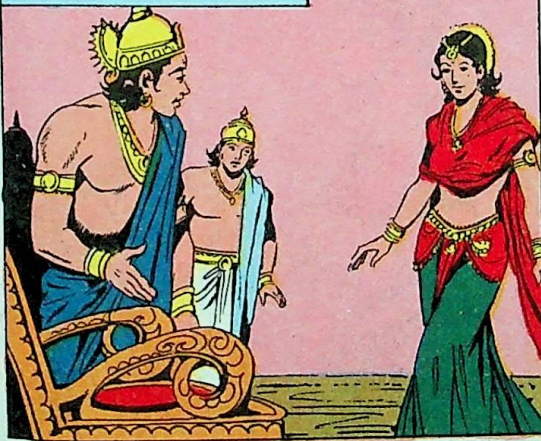
THE DEVAS AND ASURAS RESUMED THEIR CHURNING. BEFORE LONG THERE AROSE FROM THE OCEAN SURABHI, THE DIVINE COW, UCHCHHAISHRAVA, THE HORSE WHITE AS THE MOON AND AIRAVATA, THE WHITE ELEPHANT WITH FOUR TUSKS. THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY A BEVY OF BEAUTIFUL APSARAS. LATER EMERGED THE CELESTIAL PARIJATA TREE AND VARUNI THE GODDESS OF WINE, ROLLING HER INTOXICATING EYES.



THEN SHREE AROSE FROM THE OCEAN,  
GRACEFUL AND EFFULGENT.



HER BEAUTY WAS SUCH AS TO STIR  
THE MINDS OF THE DEVAS AND ASURAS.  
ALL OF THEM WERE ANXIOUS TO BE  
OF SERVICE TO HER.



GANGA AND OTHER HOLY RIVERS BROUGHT  
WATER IN GOLDEN JARS FOR HER ABLUTIONS.



VASANTA, THE GOD  
OF SPRING, BROUGHT  
FRUITS AND FLOWERS.



THE APSARAS BEGAN TO DANCE FOR HER.





THE CLOUDS RAINED MUSIC FROM A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS.



VARUNA, LORD OF THE WATERS, BROUGHT HER THE CELEBRATED VAIJAYANTI GARLAND.



WHEN THE AUSPICIOUS CEREMONIES WERE COMPLETED, SHREE MOVED HERE AND THERE LOOKING FOR THE ONE WHO IS THE REPOSITORY OF ALL GOOD QUALITIES.



IN THE END, SHE CHOSE LORD VISHNU, WHO IS PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.



SHE PLACED THE BEAUTIFUL VAIJAYANTI GARLAND ROUND HIS NECK.



VISHNU, LORD OF THE THREE WORLDS, ACCEPTED HER.





THE CHURNING CONTINUED.

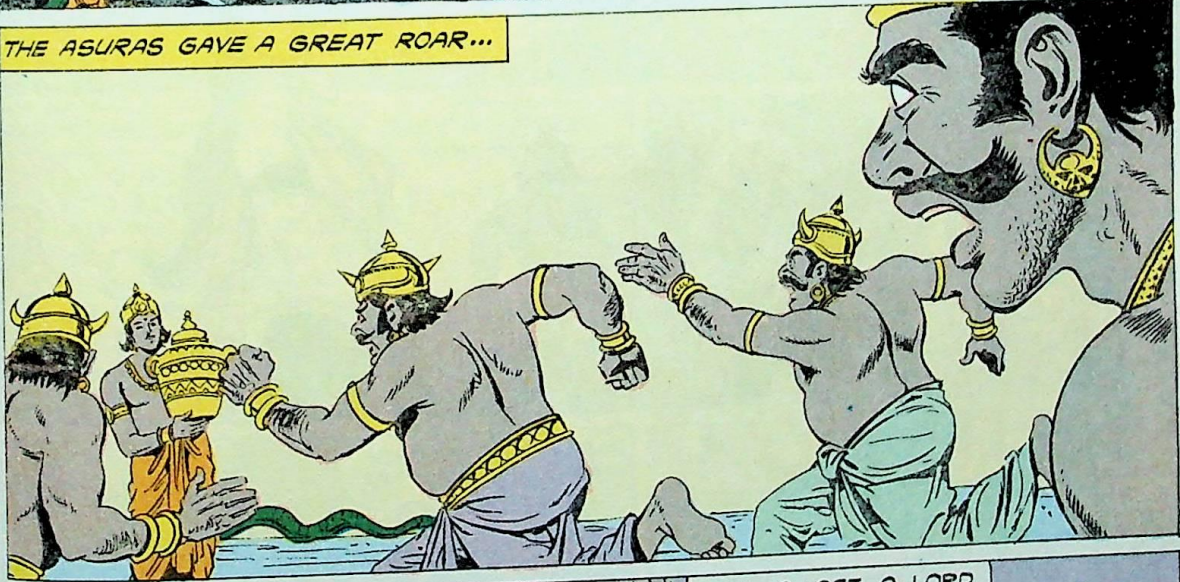


FINALLY DHANVANTARI, THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN, CAME FORTH, HOLDING THE VESSEL OF CELESTIAL NECTAR.

AT LAST!  
THE DIVINE  
ELIXIR!



THE ASURAS GAVE A GREAT ROAR...



...AND TOOK THE PRECIOUS VESSEL FROM HIM BY FORCE.

ALL IS LOST. O, LORD  
VISHNU, SAVE  
THE PRECIOUS  
NECTAR!





VISHNU AT ONCE ASSUMED THE BEWITCHING FORM OF MOHINI, THE ENCHANTRESS.



MEANWHILE, THE ASURAS HAD BEGUN QUARRELLING AMONG THEMSELVES OVER THE JAR OF NECTAR.



SUDDENLY, THEY SAW MOHINI APPROACHING THEM WITH SWEET LOOKS AND ENCHANTING SMILES.



INTOXICATED WITH HER BEAUTY, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO FOLLOW HER.

SUCH GRACE!

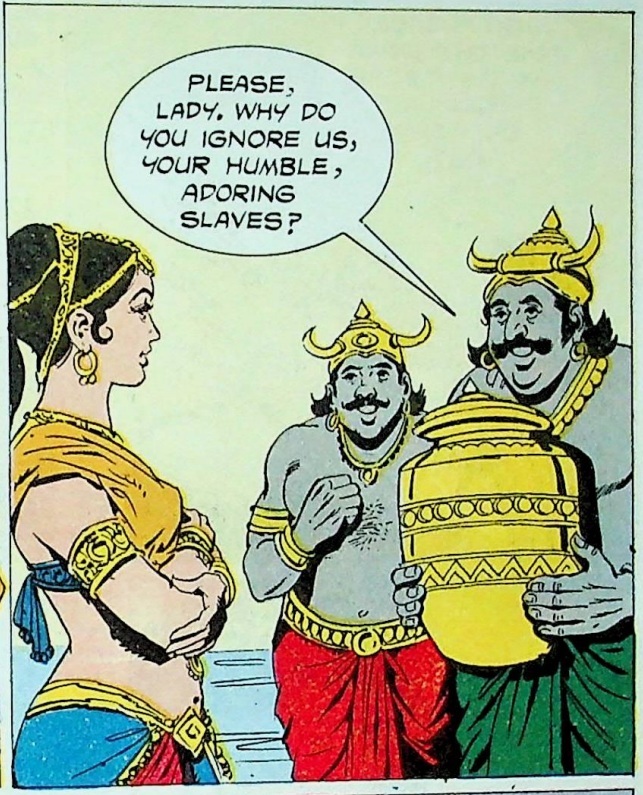
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!



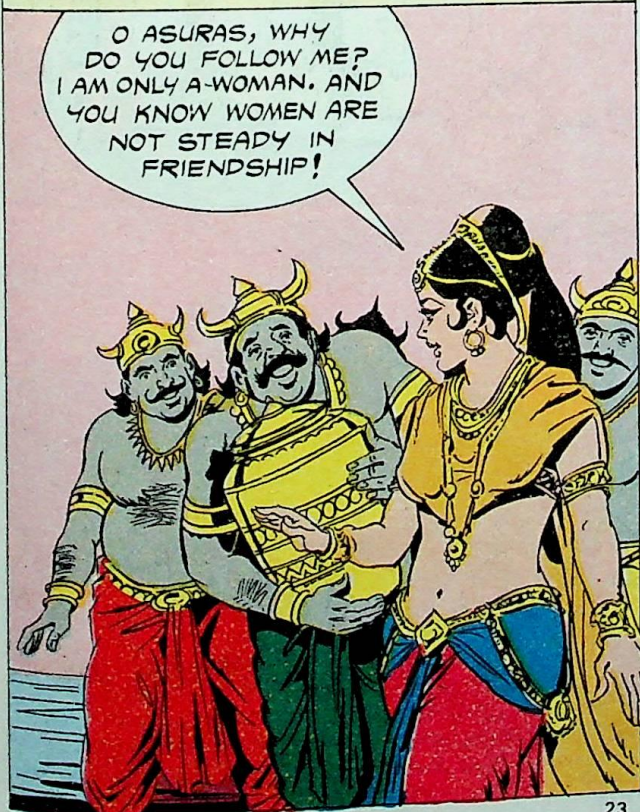
WHY DON'T WE ASK HER TO DISTRIBUTE THE NECTAR TO US?







MOHINI DECIDED TO TEASE THEM A LITTLE.





...SO PLEASE  
TAKE THIS DRINK  
AND DISTRIBUTE  
IT EQUALLY  
BETWEEN  
US!

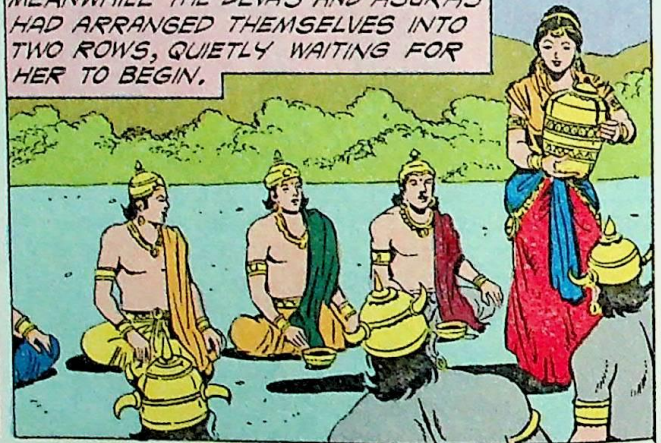


ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU  
MUST PROMISE TO ABIDE  
BY MY DECISION, EVEN IF  
YOU DON'T LIKE IT.

NOTHING  
YOU DO WILL  
DISPLEASE  
US!



MEANWHILE THE DEVAS AND ASURAS  
HAD ARRANGED THEMSELVES INTO  
TWO ROWS, QUIETLY WAITING FOR  
HER TO BEGIN.



GIVING THEM  
THIS DRINK  
WOULD BE LIKE  
GIVING MILK TO  
POISONOUS  
SNAKES. NO, NO,  
THEY SHALL  
NOT HAVE IT!



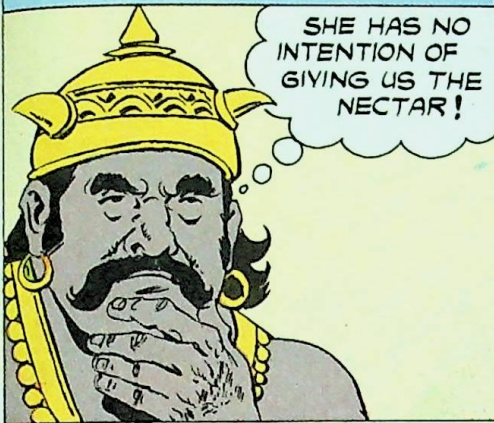
MOHINI FIRST GAVE THE NECTAR TO ALL THE DEVAS TO DRINK...



...WHILE SMILING BEWITCHINGLY AT THE  
ASURAS. AND THE ASURAS WERE CONTENT  
WITH THE SMILES SHE FLASHED AT THEM.



BUT ONE OF THE ASURAS WHOSE NAME WAS RAHU, BECAME SUSPICIOUS.



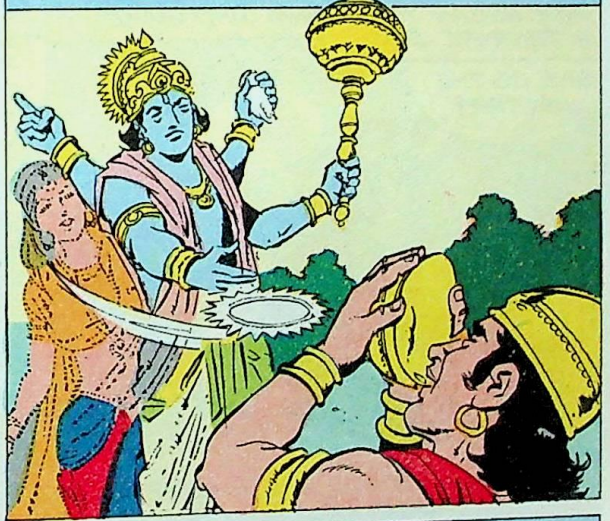
SO RAHU ASSUMED THE FORM OF DEVA AND QUIETLY CROSSED OVER.



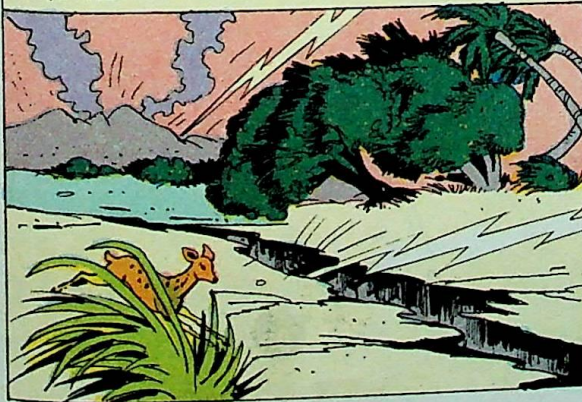
FORTUNATELY, SURYA, THE SUN, AND SOMA, THE MOON, WERE WATCHFUL.



THE NECTAR HAD BARELY REACHED RAHU'S THROAT. INSTANTLY VISHNU HURLED HIS CHAKRA AT HIM TO CUT OFF THE WELL-ADORNED HEAD OF THE ASURA.



AS THE HUGE HEADLESS TRUNK OF THE ASURA FELL DOWN, IT CAUSED THE EARTH TO SHAKE AND THE MOUNTAINS TO RUMBLE.



AND THE SEVERED HEAD OF THE ASURA ROSE TO THE SKY ROARING HORRIBLY.





AT LAST, THE TRUTH DAWNED ON THE ASURAS!

THAT'S NO ENCHANTRESS!  
THAT'S VISHNU!

WE'VE  
BEEN  
TRICKED!

THEY BEGAN TO SCREAM AND MAKE  
A TERRIFIC DIN.

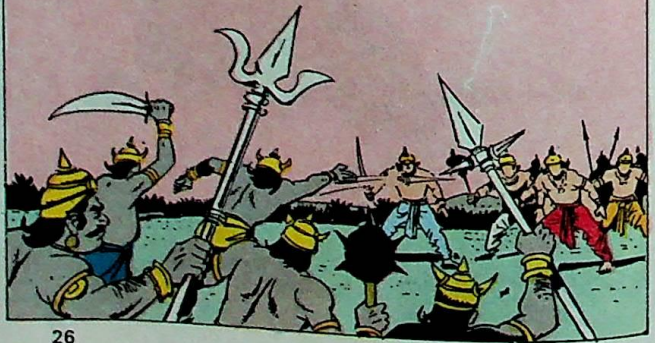
GIVE US THE  
NECTAR!

IT'S  
OURS!

AMID GREAT TUMULT AND EXCITEMENT  
MANY MORE OF THE GODS QUICKLY  
PARTOOK OF THE NECTAR WHICH THEY  
SO GREATLY DESIRED AND THEY BECAME  
IMMORTAL.

MEANWHILE THE ASURAS HAD BEEN  
ARMING THEMSELVES WITH VARIOUS  
WEAPONS.

THEN, ON THE SHORES OF THE OCEAN,  
BEGAN THE GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN  
THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS.





SHARP POINTED JAVELINS AND LANCES WERE HURLED AT THE ASURAS.



THE ASURAS DIED IN LARGE NUMBERS THEIR HEADS ADORNED WITH BRIGHT GOLD FELL ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.



WAR CRIES AND CRIES OF PAIN INTERMINGLED.



AT THE HEIGHT OF THIS FIERCE BATTLE, VISHNU ENTERED THE FIELD.



THEY SEEM  
EVENLY MATCHED.  
THE DEVAS NEED  
MY HELP.

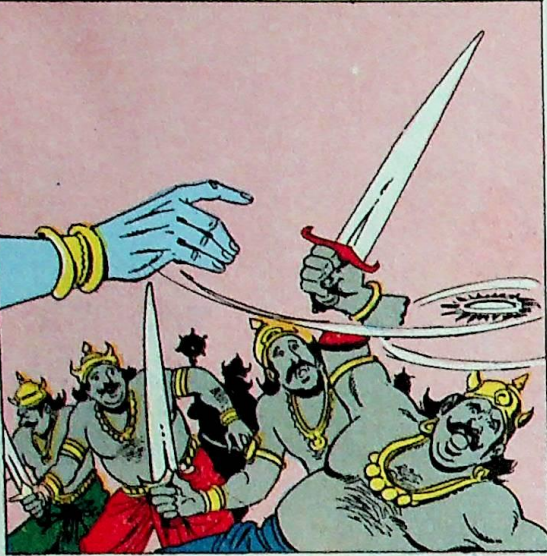


AS SOON AS HE THOUGHT OF IT,  
HIS OWN INCOMPARABLE DISCUS,  
THE SHINING SUDARSHANA  
CHAKRA, CAME THROUGH THE  
SKY.





VISHNU AIMED THE SUDHARSHANA AT THE ASURAS. IT FLEW EVERYWHERE DESTROYING THOUSANDS OF ASURAS.



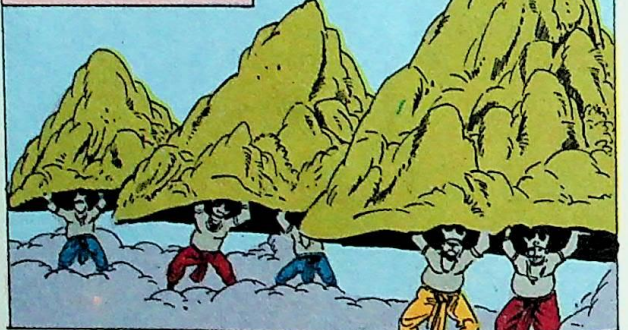
AT OTHER TIMES, IT BLAZED LIKE FIRE AND BURNED EVERYTHING AROUND IT.



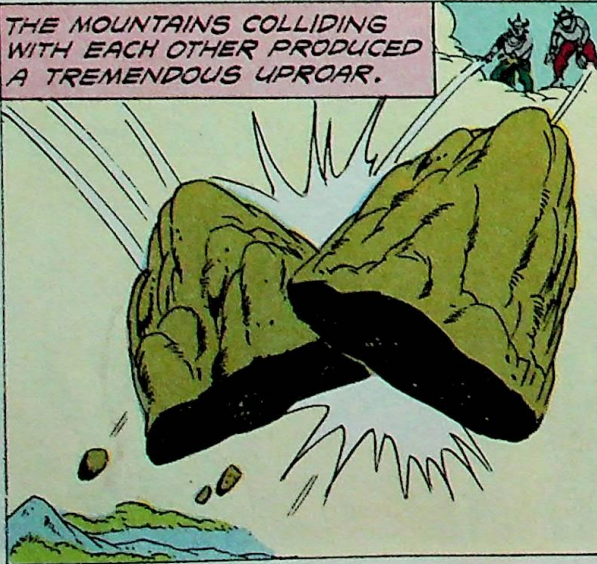
BUT THE ASURAS WERE NOT YET DAUNTED. THEY ROSE SKYWARDS...



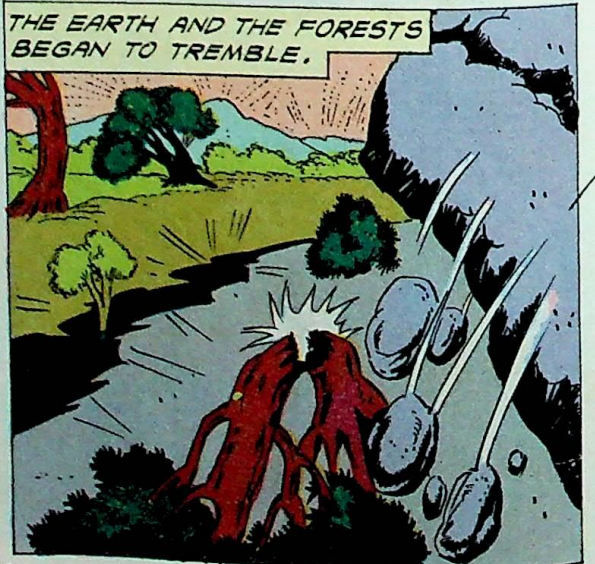
...AND HURLED HUGE MOUNTAINS AT THE DEVAS.



THE MOUNTAINS COLLIDING WITH EACH OTHER PRODUCED A TREMENDOUS UPROAR.

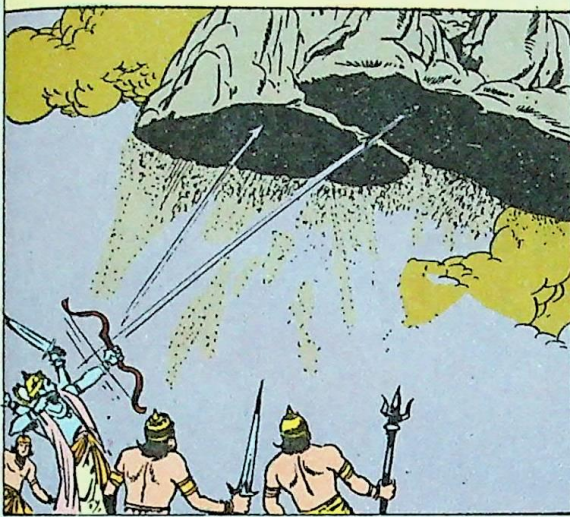


THE EARTH AND THE FORESTS BEGAN TO TREMBLE.

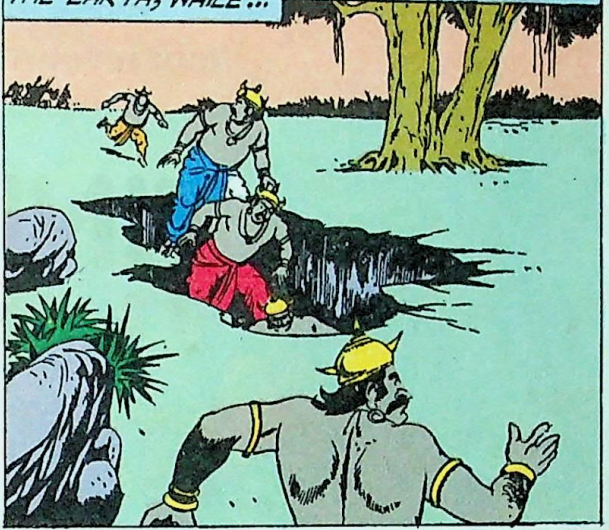




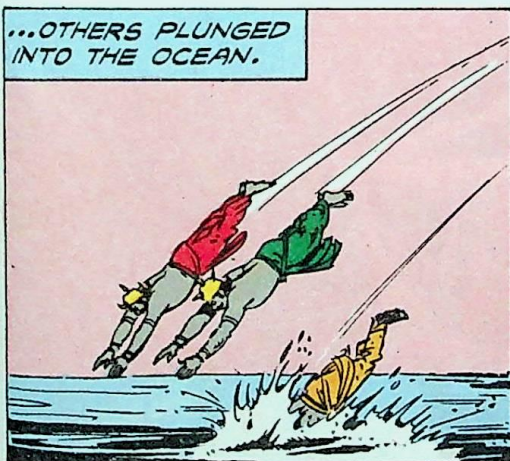
AGAIN THE DIVINE VISHNU CAME TO THE AID OF THE DEVAS. SHOOTING GOLDEN-HEADED ARROWS AT THE FALLING MOUNTAINS, HE REDUCED THEM TO DUST.



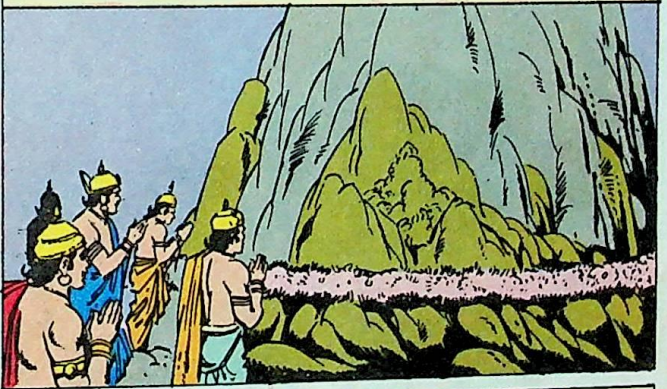
THE ASURAS WERE DEFEATED. THEY COULD FIGHT BACK NO MORE, SHRIEKING LOUDLY, SOME OF THEM ENTERED THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH, WHILE...



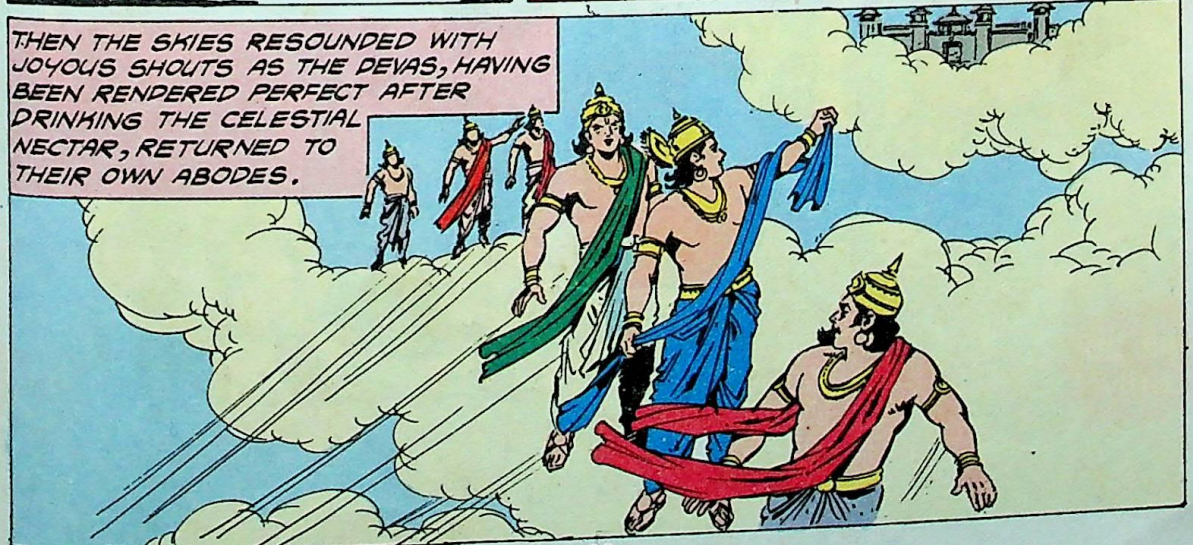
...OTHERS PLUNGED INTO THE OCEAN.



THE VICTORIOUS DEVAS PUT MOUNT MANDARA BACK IN ITS OLD PLACE AND DID OBEISANCE TO IT.



THEN THE SKIES RESOUNDED WITH JOYOUS SHOUTS AS THE DEVAS, HAVING BEEN RENDERED PERFECT AFTER DRINKING THE CELESTIAL NECTAR, RETURNED TO THEIR OWN ABODES.



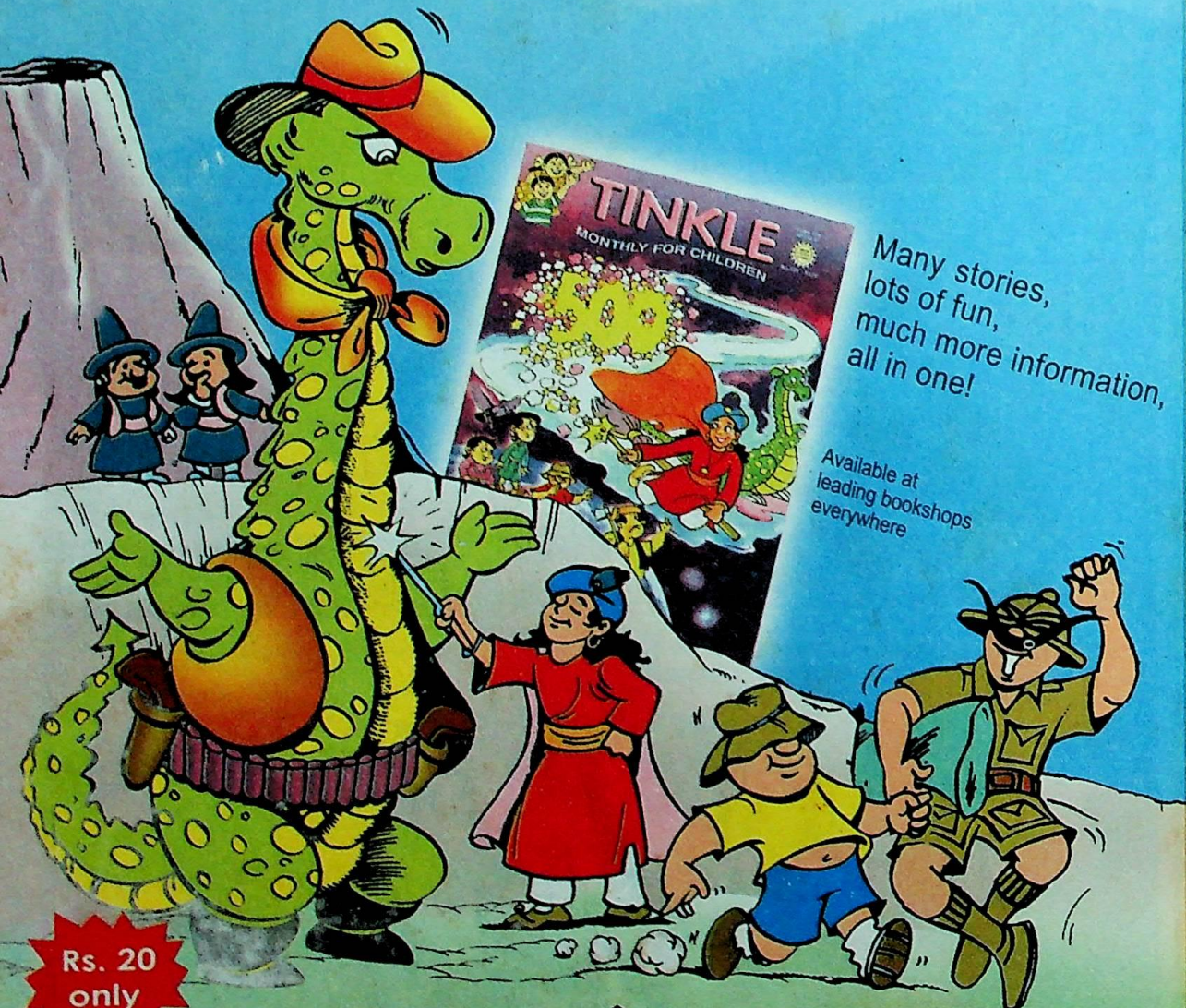


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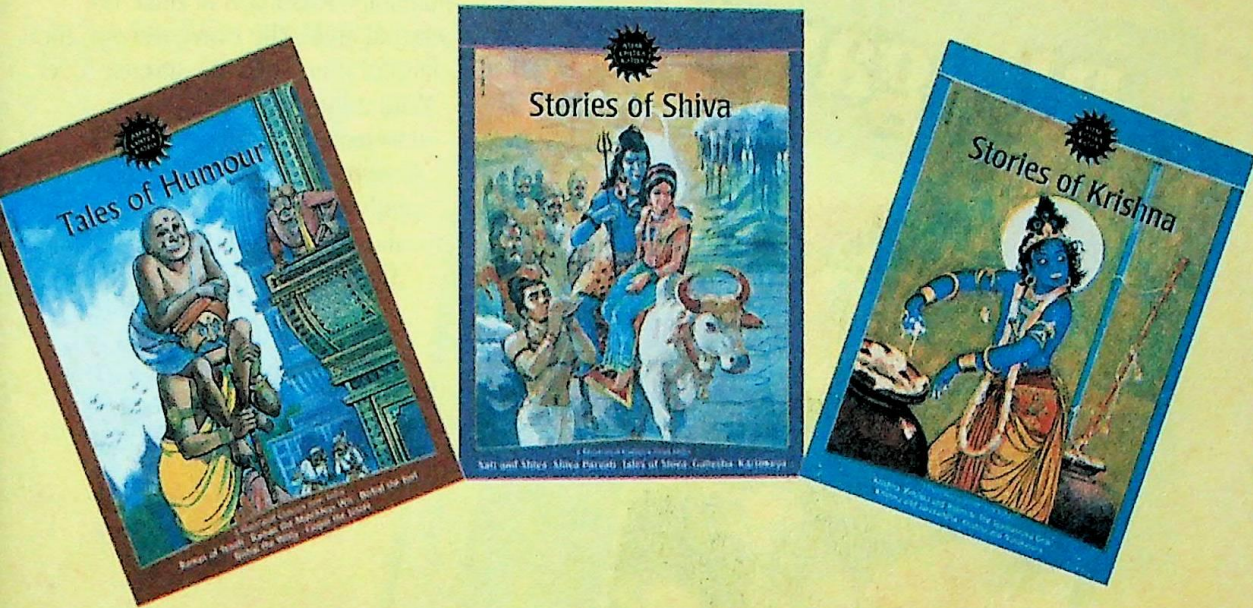
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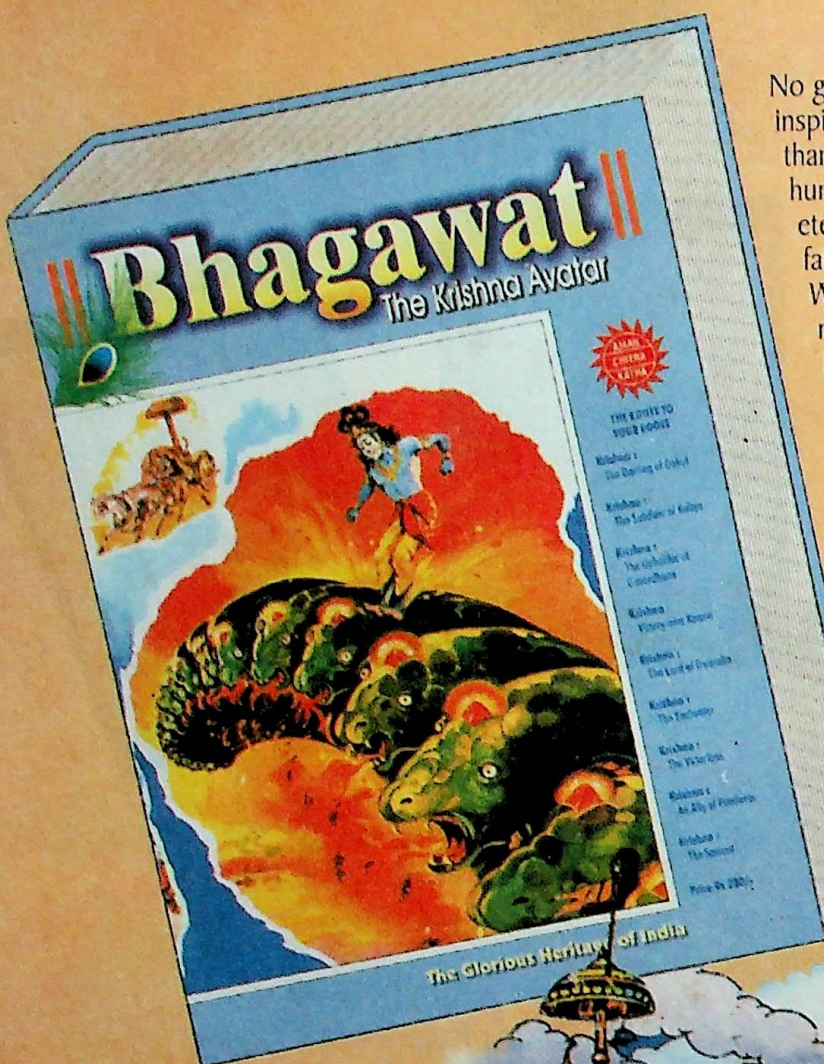


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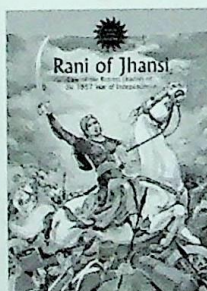
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